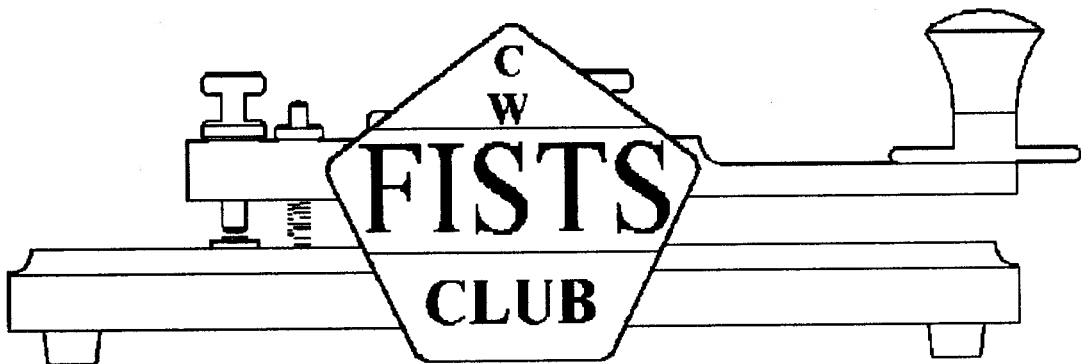


The Keynote

North American Memo
Newsletter of FISTS CW Club
The International Morse Preservation Society



Our Goals:

- ✂ Further the use of CW
- ✂ Encourage newcomers to use Morse code
- ✂ Engender friendships among members

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend.”

When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer. Posting a question on a chat room or email reflector may result in a lot of opinions, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer or look in the reference issue.

Please put the word 'FISTS' somewhere in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

For questions about:

Awards and Certificates contact

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, fistsawards@comcast.net : 4658 CAPITAN DR, Fremont CA 94536

The QSL Bureau contact

Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net : 1020 LONG ISLAND DR, Moneta VA 24121-1952

Our club call KN0WCW contact

Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, HMC FMF_Karl@peoplepc.com : 2176 DRAKE RD, Bomoseen VT 05732

The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact

Ed Hayes, N7CFA, n7cfa@msn.com : 2628 LILAC ST, Longview WA 98632-3525

To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact

Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com : 33778 REBECCA RD, Kingston IL 60145

Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact
Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, kk4kf@cox.net

Club presentation packets contact

Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com : 3618 MONTRIDGE CT, Arlington TX 76016

To change or include your email address on the FISTS email list contact

Kathi Hilton N0FKA, fistelist@comcast.net (no 's' on end of fist in email address)

Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact

Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club,
w3hem@arrl.net : 108 BRENT RD. Arnold MD 21012

Sprints contact

Dan Sheperd, N8IE, W8PIG@yahoo.com : 1900 PITTSFIELD ST, Kettering OH 45420

Get Your Feet Wet Weekend /G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact

Lee Hallin, N7NU, hallinl@lanec.edu : 3413 WALTON LN, Eugene OR 97408

Ordering supplies: Irene Kott W08E

44609 North Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp MI 48038 or paypal to fists@tir.com.

Irene has no email capability. Some shirt sizes are sold out - check web page.

All other questions, including supplies, tapes for the blind, address changes, general membership questions and articles for the Keynote contact Nancy Kott WZ8C, nancy@tir.com; PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

NANCY@TIR.COM PHONE: (810) 797-2033 FAX (810) 797-5808

Hello FISTS! Happy Holidays! I hope it's warmer in your neck of the woods than it is here in MI. I had hoped to get some new coax up for my new G5RV up before the snow started, but we've already got a few inches of the white stuff on the ground and I don't have the coax. Thankfully, the G5RV is up - that's the hard part to do when you're freezing!

I just plain ran out of time for this issue, and figured I better get it to the printer or I'd never get one more finished before the end of the year. SO, anything that was left out of this one will be in next month. If you have anything you'd like in the last issue of the year, please send it to me PRONTO.

I hope you enjoy the new award for 2009. Something similar was suggested by Charlie Cotterman a few years ago. It shouldn't be terribly hard since non-FISTS and FISTS members can be counted. I did a cursory count of the area codes of FISTS members and stopped counting at 200, so it is more than do-able. Plus, we wanted something that people who join FISTS in the middle of the year can participate in, also.

Dennis is making up a nice certificate, which is free to FISTS members in good standing, so we
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hope you have fun and let us know what you think of it. If you have award ideas, please send them along, especially if they are original. Keep in mind that they have to be something that is achievable by the majority of members, too often people want what amounts to "vanity awards" - certificates that only a handful of people have the time or capability to earn.

Bruce, N7CXJ, suggested we put the mailing addresses for the contact people on the inside front cover, along with their email information, because not everyone has internet access. Thanks for the suggestion, Bruce - as you see, I added the mailing addresses, hope this helps those who don't have internet and can't get QRZ.com. Bruce also said he went through the "mugshot" issue, looking for gangsters that he used to associate with, but didn't find any, so he assumes they don't know code!

Ted, AH6GD, writes that CW is alive and well on the Big Island. Hopefully the sunspots will start cooperating and we'll be able to hear more Hawaiian FISTS on the air.

As you know, WorldRadio has been bought by CQ Publications. I'm still going to be the editor and

most of the columnists, including Krusty Ol' Kurt are making the move, too. There will be a new FISTS column. If you are a WorldRadio subscriber or Lifetime subscriber, your subscription will automatically be rolled over into a CQ subscription. If you don't want a CQ subscription, you can choose one of the other CQ Publications. Details are at the web page <http://www.cq-amateur-radio/WorldRadioConver.com> Lifetime subscribers can also choose to use the value of their lifetime subscription in the CQ Bookstore.

WorldRadio will not be published as a printed magazine any more, but will be available, FREE, on the internet as a .pdf file. You can download it, print it out, or read it right from your screen.

OK, I've rambled enough, on with the Keynote! 73 88 33, Nancy WZ8C

FRIENDLY REMINDER

PLEASE CHECK YOUR RENEWAL DATE AND SAVE US FROM HAVING TO SEND YOU A REMINDER CARD.

IF YOUR DUE DATE IS 6/6/2008 THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE AND YOU WILL NO LONGER BE ON THE ACTIVE MEMBER LIST !!!

Welcome to the New FISTS

Number Callsign First Name QTH Sponsor

13990	N4LZY	JERRY	TN	
13991	N4LTA	PAT	SC	W7RVR
13992	AF4LV	MARK	SC	
13993	KI4HPX	Victor	GA	
13994	K2IDK	Ed	NJ	
13995	K5UI	Jim	TX	
13996	K8QF	RUSS	OH	
13997	W4MXT	Bill	TN	
13998	K6FRB	BOB	CA	
13999	K6CRA	Phillip	VA	
14000	UK members			
14100	ZL members			
14201	WB0OEW	ELWOOD	NM	
14202	KY9KYO	RELL	IL	
14203	W6MJF	MICHAEL	CA	
14204	N1ZX	STAN	FL	
14205	KB1EPR	Thomas	VT	
14206	N2UM	GARY	NY	
14207	N2NDJ	John	NY	
14208	KC6ICA	GUY	MN	
14209	K9TER	Terry	IL	
14210	KB8DFK	BILL	MI	
14211	KC2WH	LEE	NJ	
14212	VE7DOJ	JACK	BC	
14213	KE5WIQ	NEIL	TX	
14214	KA4YLH	SOPHIA	AZ	
14215	K8JHR	JAMES	MI	
14216	AA7W	JOHN	WA	
14217	K0NO	REX	IA	
14218	NN4EA	Dan	VA	
14219	AB4SB	MICHAEL	NC	N4UED
14220	N7EQO	DAVE	WA	
14221	KB4KKX	JEAN	KY	
14222	AD1R	DAVE	MA	
14223	KW7A	JOHN	UT	
14224	K1DWU	JOHN	NY	
14225	NC0JB	JASON	KS	
14226	AH6O	JIM	CO	
14227	K0RCJ	RICHARD	KS	
14228	WB5S	BRUCE	LA	
14229	KE5LSU	MIKE	NM	
14230	VE3VEG	ROBERT	ONT	
14231	W2UL	LARRIE	NY	

Number Callsign First Name QTH Sponsor

14232	WB8DGK	ROBERT	MI	
14233	KF6PQT	JASON	CA	
14234	WA2NTK	RALPH	NY	
14235	AA2L	ED	CO	
14236	W7YSB	Eldon	AZ	
14237	NZ2X	DAVE	NC	
14238	AD6IG	FRED	CA	KE6OIO
14239	AA5PJ	JIM	MS	WB2FXK
14240	K0AYZ	DAVID	ND	
14241	AA7CU	ALLAN	OR	
14242	W7XQ	LUKE	CA	
14243	W6TPQ	CLARK	CA	
14244	KE5REM	BILL	TX	
14245	K2OEK	GEORGE	NY	
14246	WB2SGS	John	NY	
14247	KA1HIC	John	FL	
14248	NR9B	BILL	MI	
14249	AE5MM	LOYD	OK	
4251	W6ZEN	ZEN	CA	WB2FXK
14252	K4JRS	JIM	GA	
14253	N1VXW	Richard	GA	
14254	WB0LYV	JOHN	NE	
14255	KB2HHW	MARTY	NY	
14256	K3DJ	DONALD	FL	

JOHN STARK #6215, SK

John was a fine member of the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club and the biggest promoter of CW in our local club.

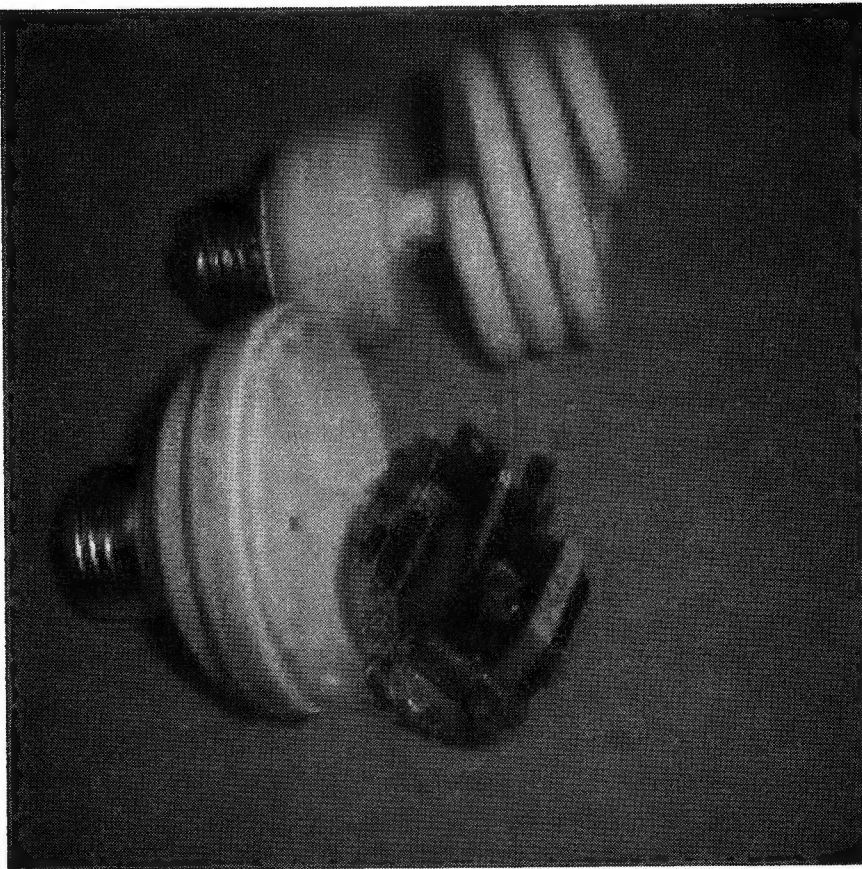
The first thing he would ask you is if you were a FISTS member! I would not be a member if it were not for John. He told me to hurry and get my number before they wernt to five digits. Well, I got number 10001. John had a laugh and said what a great number! He always made sure that the club was in each FISTS contest and got the members line up to work them. Every Field Day he would line up the crew for the CW operating.

He was on the way to Field Day when the heart attack hit him. He will be greatly missed. He was one of the KeyNotes biggest supporters.73 Tom AI4QP #10001

Parts from Light Bulbs

This hint comes to us from John, AI4FR, who is also the volunteer who reads the Keynote on to tape for our blind members. If you try this, please be careful.

Whoa!! Would you look at that!! There are parts galore inside these energy saving bulbs. Who knew? This little tidbit is not really a repair tip but a “how to” on getting some spare parts. If you are any thing like myself, if it is electronic and it's broke we either fix it or dig into it for spare parts. I even have the word out to all of the neighbors not to toss out electronic items. Anyways and getting back to the topic on hand, the picture shows a trick that is not very well known for picking up a few spare parts.



Simply and carefully(glass) take apart any of the “green” bulbs that burn out. I do this by using a sharp utensil such as a knife on the seam of the plastic base. I stick the knife in this seam and carefully break apart the two pieces of plastic, one on the base and the other that holds the glass element. Inside there are a number of capacitors, diodes, transistors, resistors and a small transformer among other things. Now, besides picking up a few extra parts from an unknown source, you also know one of the reasons why these bulbs are so expensive.

I find myself compelled to write this letter to you. In the Keynote, Issue 5, a letter was printed which came from a member that states he will not be renewing his FISTS membership since, “the majority of FISTS members...worked seem to be primarily interested in awards-chasing, an activity which holds little interest for me.” You have included several such letters in the Keynote over the 7+ years that I have have been a FISTS member.

ing! I have earned several awards through FISTS, have enjoyed earning those awards, and am not ashamed, in the least, of having those awards. I for one do not hurry off after a quick exchange of FISTS and CC numbers. And, truth be told, have only been on the receiving end of such an exchange one time in my 7+ years of membership. Now, it is true that I've only had a scant handful of QSOs with FISTS members that went over one hour in length, but I've sure had over 50 that went for 1/2 hour and more;

FISTS CW Club

which, is how I earned the FISTS Ragchewer Award. And I can't count the number of QSOs I've had with FISTS members that went between 15 and 30 minutes. Again only one time has a member grabbed my numbers and said 73 immediately thereafter.

Allow me to suggest the following for those that want a long QSO. Ask you contact a few questions about his station, antennas, experiences in the military, his job, or about the countryside in his area. Give a little more info

than just RST, name, QTH, rig, and FISTS numbers. You WILL find that your fellow FISTS members will be glad to answer your questions and will probably ask you a few questions in return.

It just isn't worth quitting a fine club like FISTS because a misguided individual here and there runs off sooner than you would like him to. Some of the responsibility lies on your own end of the QSO.

Sincerely, Clay Mills KE6HI

Where is everybody?

Various times of the day, weekdays and weekends, I tune down to 14.058, sometimes 7.058 and I don't hear anything.

Sometimes I will call CQ FISTS but not get a reply. This lack of activity is a big change from all of the activity I encountered in 2007. I know the bands are bad but they aren't bad enough to keep many hams off the air or are they? Turn on your rig and tune down to the FISTS frequency and call CQ or answer a CQ. Rem K6BBQ FISTS 12949

HELP with AEA KT-1 Keyer/Trainer

A neighbor passed away and among his equipment given to me was an AEA KT-1 Key/Trainer. Unfortunately, the instruction manual was not found.

So, I am at a loss on how to operate the device without instructions. Does anyone have any knowledge of this Keyer/Trainer or know of anyone who does? I certainly

would like to hear this thing work and use it.

Norman Hanson, W0RSD, 7 Circle Dr, Newton KS 67114

Here are some additional arguments for CW and Q-Code in an era of cell phones, satellites, and the Internet.

Unsightly cell phone towers (which may deter bees and bats from performing their essential work), are easy targets for terrorist sabotage.

Fragile satellites orbit in an environment which is saturated with space junk. Also, as potential enemies become more sophisticated, the servicability of a satellite can become problematic.

The Internet is vulnerable to cyberterrorism (China experimentally shut down the nation of Latvia for a day, and most nations are quietly developing plans to cripple the communications of other nations in case of war.)

On the other hand, as every FISTS member so well knows, amateur radio CW communication is a time-tested, dispersed, distributed digital network. Rather than being an anachronism, perhaps the hour of CW's greatest contribution has not yet arrived.

73, Roy, WA2TWS FISTS #2903

Preservation or Extinction?

After reading the last two issue of the Keynote, I have to wonder if FISTS is really dedicated to the preservation of Morse code.

FISTS CW Club

Based on the published letters from our membership, that does not seem to be the case.

In the most recent issue, we see a bitter diatribe directed against those who use a keyboard and code reader. Is this not Morse code?

Don't we want more people using CW and preserving our place on the bands?

Attempting to exclude CW operators based on what tools they choose to use is divisive. You don't preserve Morse code by driving away new users and new technology. In fact, that is a sure path to extinction.

Similarly, in previous issues I have read several mean-spirited letters directed against people with poor code skills. Here is another great opportunity to drive away new CW users.

People are not born with inherent CW skills. It takes a long time to become proficient, and in the mean time you make many mistakes. A sure way to drive someone off the air is to tell them that these mistakes are unacceptable. If we were really interested in preserving Morse code, we would be patient and supportive. We would write about ways to improve the overall skill level instead of complaining about how bad it is.

I sincerely hope that FISTS has not become a bevy of old men, talking incessantly about the "old days" and wringing their hands

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over change and the foibles of the younger generation. That is a quick trip to oblivion for both the organization and for Morse code. If we as a group are really interested in preserving Morse code, we must unite. We need to welcome the young, the inexperienced, and the unskilled. And we need to look ahead to new technologies and new concepts while keeping the old traditions alive.

Thanks and 73, John, WA6L

Down with Instant Success?

I received issue 6 of the Keynote and I always enjoy reading it. I now have to get on my "soapbox" and take exception to the article you printed in the most recent issue, Terry W1QF/2, Down with instant success.

I was licensed in the mid-seventies and have used CW for most of my entire ham career. I'd get on SSB to get a sked going on CW but that's about it. We asked for "the land of instant success" we have now and must deal with it. The new no-code operators on the cw bands should not "disgust" us. We should be happy they are there to create activity in the cw spectrum. That's all I hear. "We need activity on the bands or we will lose them". Give everyone access to the lower 25kHz to spread us out. I've tuned down there many times and it is as quiet as a grave yard.

FISTS published a good article in the issue 2 2008 Keynote "Code improving tips from Samuel Issue 7 2008

Morse III". Essentially he was advocating a type of code reader to learn and increase your code speed. Go to WB4QF's website and he suggests using a code reader and a keyboard for high speed morse. These FOG guys are no slouches cruising along at 50-60 wpm and higher. Both of these examples show the benefits of reading code as it is sent.

I am learning QRQ and am having a great time with it. Code readers help to increase your code speed. At higher speeds you may miss a word and freeze and then miss the entire thought sent to you. The code reader helps in this case. I find I can copy in my head faster than the code reader can display the sent code.

Whether these "codeless wonders" know it or not, they are unconsciously increasing their code copying ability. Granted the punctuation used in typing probably should be kept out of the sent code. I have never had anyone turn me down for a QSO because he was using a keyboard and I was not.

Technology is embraced by the ham community as it becomes available. We should accept all legal and useful techniques to increase the fun had in ham radio. FISTS should not endorse a holier than thou attitude. We must remember to adhere to the mission statement and goals of the FISTS organization. Quit driving on the shoulder and get in the CW fast lane. Keith/KI4JA FISTS #6536

FISTS CW Club

I would like to respond to Terry W1QF/2's statement, where he was in agreement to WD8DIN's article "Down with Instant "Success". My membership number is 13972. I have been an Amateur Radio CW Operator for 56 years now, eight of those years, was spent in the U.S. Navy as a Radioman serving on PBR's and Swiftboats in the Delta. Since I was already an Amateur before my service, my code speed was around 13-15 wpm. When I went into the Navy, I had to learn code their way. As a kid, I use to copy with a pencil, but in the Navy, I had to use a "mill" or typewriter. It was like having to learn the code all over again. My brain knew the characters, but I couldn't relay that information to my fingers. Of course, with time, it became second nature. When the Navy taught you the code, they taught you the code. They had a character for everything in the English language. And in response to Terry's comment, just how many "hams" today, would even know such things as a representation for the dollar (\$) sign?? I agree, there are a lot of shortcuts for word representation today, but in a time of war, there was no room for second guessing. I'm proud of the fact that I send everything that I see, or even in normal QSO, I still send all my punctuation. It's fun using the code today in normal "rag chewing", but let us not forget how important it was, when someone's life depended on your proficiency. Just a thought.

Jim WA5WRE

QRP with John Shannon

Column #86 by John, K3WWP

For various reasons, it takes a long time sometimes to deal with feedback I get from these columns. This particular column deals with feedback from a column almost a year and a half old. As mentioned in my last column, all my columns are available on my web site at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> if you want to refresh your mind.

From Alan KB7MBI comes this column feedback followed at the end by my further comments, "John, I loved your article in Issue 4/5 2007. I can't agree more with your points. There is this tendency for folks to want "contesting equalizers". It just can't happen. Power out is a very small part of the difference. I loved you using Effective Radiated Power. That coupled with location, location, and location.

One thing QRPers seem to forget is that THE OTHER GUY, the fellow on the receiving end is doing all the work. This is where QRP-SENSE comes into play. If you are hard to copy, keep the transmissions short and sweet. Adjust the speed to the conditions. If your signal is weak and lots of QRN maybe a slower speed might work better for them. Remember with QRN and QSB you can lose characters. Sending slower may help.

Personally I prefer to pick the weakest station and try to have a

QSO...truly "working" that station. I would take one weak station contact over a dozen arm-chair copies.

Here was a posting I made a while back I think that parallels your thoughts, just not as articulately: 1 watt Rule of Thumb? I had some time basking in the hot sun here in Seattle this weekend and mulled over QRP operations. It APPEARS to me that a general equation for success is that the combination of the lobe pattern (and associated gain/ radiation angle) plus ERP (effective radiated power) when it equals about 1 watt generally adds up to successful contacts being made.

What I was getting at is it is important to know the pattern of your antenna on a particular band and generally how efficient your radiating system is (antenna, feedline) can help you plan for a little success. Sure it is always fun to throw caution to the wind and try set ups at random but sometimes you may just want to increase your odds a bit.

But it appeared that many compromise antennas may add up to feedline loss and radiating efficiency to less than half the power you are starting out with and even more as the power level of the battery supply drops.

Setting aside operator skill, that may suggest why a 500mw rig and a 2X gain figure on a beam up 75-100 feet has about the same success as 5 watts with an ineffi-

cient antenna (25 percent).

If this is valid then knowing the general lobe pattern and expected gain figures and estimating the losses are important. It may be a reason why using lossy feedline or an inefficient short vertical set up and using 5 watts is not that important under many conditions as putting up a FIELD DAY SPECIAL with a little gain and using the QRPp milliwatt radio. Sure the propagation and actual location and several other factors have an effect but GENERALLY SPEAKING it appears from my limited practical experience this holds true.

Nothing magical about the 1 watt other than it being an approximate value. (OK I know someone on 1mw and a bread package wire tirewrap has probably worked DXCC but I am saying under generally average conditions.) Just thought I would pass along for consideration and discussion."

Now my comments. First, it is not the station copying a QRP signal who is totally responsible for the success of a QRP operator. If that were true, anyone at all could get on the air with QRP and be just as successful as someone with a KW/beam station. We know that does not happen. As Alan says, the QRP operator's skill adds a lot to the equation of success.

Alan says sometimes QRS will help under certain conditions. The converse is true also. Sometimes speeding up will help

much more, especially when QSB is present. A lot of information can be sent during an upswing in propagation if it is sent at higher speeds. Sending too slow under rapid QSB can cause parts of every word to be lost, whereas with higher speeds, it will be whole words that will be lost. It is easier to figure out missing words most times, than trying to figure out what isolated letters mean.

This is especially true in contests, and virtually all top-notch contesters urge QRP ops to send their info as fast as possible. The extreme example of this is meteor-scatter propagation where bursts of CW are machine sent at up to several hundred WPM to take advantage of the extremely short periods of propagation. But that's a whole other field of endeavor. This is my opinion only, and many do not agree. I know that, so don't bother sending any comments. I feel that using big gain antennas with QRP defeats the entire concept of QRP. Except for the energy savings involved, and that may be important, there is not much difference between running 5 watts and a big high gain antenna than running 100 watts and a dipole. 5 watts into a 13db gain antenna yields an ERP of 100 watts. Is that QRP? Not to my way of thinking. Everything I've accomplished with QRP has been with minimal simple wire antennas, and you can do the same.

Other than that, not much needs to be added to what Alan says. So I'll close for now with an invita-

tion to join the NAQCC as a great adjunct to your FISTS membership. The NAQCC web site is at <http://www.usatek.net/~yoel/>. Membership is free and there are no obligations other than to help preserve CW on the ham bands in any way you can, especially with all our club activities, all of which are geared to QRP and some in addition to simple wire antennas. 73 till next column.

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF
My best wishes to all FISTS members and their families for a Happy Holiday Season.

Congratulations to Ed W7GVE for making it to the top of the Millionaire Award. Looks like Ed went all out to reach 25 Million, which gives him the honor of being the first FISTS member to do so, and during a sunspot minimum. Good Show Ed!

Award applications slowed the past few months. I expect them to increase after the cooler WX sets in and the economy doldrums continue. Those two items should keep more of us at home and in the ham shack.

You may use the following e-mail address Fistsawards@comcast.net for sending in your award logs. Excel, Word, Open Office, and Text files are the only file types accepted. Please read the e-mail log rules on the FISTS web site for details.

Send in complete logs for awards. That means all of the following

information; Call, Date of QSO, Band, FISTS Nr., Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs will delay receiving your award. Check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them:

<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>
If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail your questions to me fistsawards@comcast.net
Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF
=====

AWARDS 9/24/08 -11/19/08 Basic Century (CC)

AA9WJ

KB2XX

N0EAX

W4LDA

WA6SEU

Silver Century

KA0GX

Diamond Award

W7JI

Platinum Award

AJ4SF

WB2SPP

WAS Award

WA6RWI

Millionaire

WB0PYF

2 Million

VK4TJ

WB0PYF

3 Million

KE6OIO

7 & 8 Million

W7JI

10 Million

K4UK

22, 23, 24, & 25 Million

W7GVE

My Beginnings in Ham Radio

by Bob Null N4QR

When I was twelve years old, I took an interest in books on electricity and radio communication. I read all of these books in the school library on these subjects, and then I read the rest of the books the school had on other subjects. In fact, I think I was not even twelve yet when I became intrigued by radio.

Across the street lived a man who became my Elmer. He was known as Carl, The Drycleaning Man. He ran the only dry cleaning place in town. He was an expert because early in life he had been a radio repair man during the 1930's. This was around the first of the 1950's. He gave me some old ARRL books from the 1940's. He also gave me his homebrew single tube code practice oscillator and speed-x key. After school every afternoon I would sit in my room and practice my CW.

At night I would listen to Carl, W4EQJ talk on 75 meters on my homebrew crystal radio detector. The more I listened the harder I would work to get my ticket. I finally did, but by then I was sixteen years old and in high school.

At first I was not able to get on the air due to a lack of money. Previously, I had used my savings to buy a general coverage receiver, and SW-54 by National. It was good to listen on, but poor for ham operation. Carl borrowed an old Hammarlund HQ-129-X

from the radio club for me to use. Then he scouted around among the hams for some kind of transmitter. Finally, he found a hand-me-down homebuilt from the 1945 ARRL Handbook. It had a 6L6 crystal oscillator driving a 6L6 buffer amp into a Taylor TZ-40 triode. It was link-coupled to the antenna. Some other am donated to me a folder dipole antenna cut for forty meters, the only band my rig would work CW was 40. This rig cost \$25. I raised all the money I could from my piggy bank and from my parents in order to get that amount together.

By the time I got on the air, eight months had passed since I had received my radio license. My call was K4JVH.

It was in the month of February, 1957. It rained every day of that month. One Sunday afternoon, Carl called me on the landline to say he was coming over to put me on the air. He would bring some parts he had in his junk box.

I was excited. In about an hour Carl had me all set. My signal Corps J-38 key was plugged in, an old antenna relay was hooked up and mounted on a board on the wall behind the rig. We would need the antenna. I grabbed the TV lead fold dipole, which was rolled up in a coil, and plodded outside into the drizzle. My left shoe was smiling at me. The sole had come loose and its mouth was open. The ground was saturated with rain water. In fact, the yard

was like soup. I hunted for some place to put up the antenna. I saw a utility pole near the street end of the red mud garden.

I stood up on tiptoe in red clay water six inches deep and tied one end of the aerial support wire as high on the pole as I could reach. Then I waddled through the juicy red clay of the garden to a home-made wooden mast that I had managed to put up. When I was finished the antenna was about eight feet up at the ends, and five feet up in the center where the feeders were. Wow! It was up and ready.

I hurried back too the house. As soon as I had gotten the feeders through the low window of my shack, Carl hooked up the rig by means of push terminals on the rear apron of the transmitter.

At this time I had to leave for the bathroom. I ran back to the shack shortly. Carl said he was calling CQ and a station answered. I asked where the station was located. He said he could not copy CW, He was a phone man.

Well, Carl went home. I sat down at the controls. My hands were shaking. In my mind I thought, "This is the Big Day! I am now on the air." I could hardly breathe. I began calling CQ at a medium speed. I wanted to make sure that if I received a reply, it would be slow enough for me to copy. I stood by. Suddenly, I heard my call sign. The his call sign came in. He was a W3. I must confess

here that since that day, fifty-two years ago, I have travelled over a rocky road.

I managed to save all my logs, except my first one! It pains me now. But that is the fact of the case. That first QSO was with a ham in Maryland. That is all I can say. I still have most of my QSL cards, but NOT THAT ONE. My first QSO was on a Sunday, some time in February of 1957. If anyone out there has log data concerning February 1957, I hope he will contact me.

Needless to say, I was ecstatic when that W3 answered my CQ. I felt as if I had conquered the world.

Robert Null N4QR, 501 North First Ave, Maiden NC 28650-1105.

11-11-1940 by Mert W0UFO

November 11, 1940 is a day of many memories for me. Besides being Armistice Day, it was the day of the BIG Blizzard that hit most of Minnesota that Saturday morning and caused Duck Hunters and farmers to take shelter to avoid the cold and snow. And it was the day that I made my very first radio contact using Ham Radio.

In the town of Nashwauk, on the Iron Range of Northern MN I was snug in my upstairs bedroom of our small clapboard house in the Mississippi Location, a stub street off of 4th street in Nashwauk where 5 identical mining company houses snuggled close to a

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HUGE ore dump that was several blocks long. The dump made an ideal place to which I could string a long wire antenna for my radio hobby.

As I was awakening, I could hear my Dad shaking down our wood/coal furnace in the basement to get air into the embers to ignite kindling wood that would put fire into the chunks of coal added to the firebox. This was our home hot air heating system. My main chore was to have kindling cut from tamarack chunks ready for my dad to use as kindling for the home fires. The wood burning stove in our kitchen also added warmth in the morning as my mother cooked oatmeal and made toast in the oven. My standard breakfast was oatmeal, toast and cocoa.

The following account of my first radio contact is an admission that I have kept silent all these years but now feel, after 68 years, that as a fifteen year old, I might be forgiven after staying straight forever after.

My radio shack was a table by the window in my second story bedroom beside the double bunk where my brother and I slept. I had built a regenerative receiver that I used to listen to the 40 meter amateur band (then CW only) and from this learned to copy morse code. A friend of mine across town had built a push-pull 6L6 crystal oscillator that he lent me (he didn't know code yet) and I had a crystal for 7,138 KC(still

have it) so I was able to put a signal into the "air". On this particular morning I was listening for signals and heard a CQ and decided that I would give a call. Not having a license meant that I'd have to use some bootleg call. My earlier visits with two brother hams from a neighboring town told me that sometimes, before getting a license, they used W9XYZ (I can't remember the actual call) as a call. So I decided to use it. I gave a call and was startled and surprised to hear an immediate answer. We went through the usual signal strength exchange and I copied the stations location (Duluth, MN) and the name of the operator(Don't remember). When he asked me for my name and location, I got a little frightened and decided to go silent, shut down the station and go outside to enjoy the blizzard. Outside, our neighbor was returning from an early morning duck hunt and was having trouble getting into his snow filled yard with duck boat on trailer. We had to unhook the trailer and manually park it and then push the car into its snow-filled parking spot.

I didn't transmit again until the following spring after I had passed a class C test and got W9UFO, a S19-R Sky Buddy receiver and built a 6L6-809 CW rig. This was my station until Dec 7 1941. Remember Pearl Harbor? My recollection of my first W9UFO contact has faded away but the day of the blizzard has not.

Mert Nellis, W0UFO

PROTECT YOUR FIST

Fred Ryan, W3NJZ, FISTS #10212

After many years of CW operating I developed "glass fist", or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS) in both hands. I write this to let you know how to recognize the incidence of CTS, how to know when it is time to seek surgical relief, what to expect from the surgery, and what not having surgery done may lead to. CTS can be a career ender for CW operators.

My first symptoms began last summer when I would feel a tingling in my fingers while driving. Thinking that it was poor circulation I ignored it for a few months as it apparently had no effect on the functioning of my fingers. Suddenly my right arm would start aching while asleep. The pain would waken me and I found that if I would sit in a chair, letting my right arm hang down limply at my side, the pain would disappear after ten minutes and I could return to sleep. After another two hours the pain would recur and I would alternate from chair to bed all night. My ability to send code was not affected at all at that time (high speed on a bug and very high speed on a keyboard). It took me about two weeks to figure out what was going on with my arm and the answer came from searching the internet for medical problems where it suggested CTS. I contacted a hand surgeon who referred me first to a physician who performed Nerve Conduction Test s to determine the severity of the problem.

The Carpal Tunnel is a region in the wrist where the nerves to the fingers and the tendons are close together and in time the tendons may begin to do damage to the nerves, leading to CTS. The Nerve Conduction Test places electrodes on both the upper arm and at muscles in the hand. An electrical shock is applied to the arm and an instrument measures the delay time for the nerves to transmit that impulse to the hand, as well as attenuation in the transmission. It is a predictor of CTS nerve damage and can dictate the need for surgery. The tests showed that I had severe nerve transmission loss in

the right hand and moderately severe loss in the left. Another week was lost in waiting for an appointment for surgery on the right hand. During that week I suddenly lost the ability to use either the bug or the keyboard and had to drop out of CW altogether. The surgery on the right wrist was done in early December and two things followed; the pain disappeared at night and my sense of feeling in the fingers also disappeared, not something I expected to happen! My only CW QSO was on New Year's Eve when some QRQ buddies joined me using straight keys! My left wrist was operated on in late January. It had not reached the pain stage yet but I didn't want it to progress that far as permanent nerve damage can occur if you wait too long. Occupational therapy followed both operations.

Now, seven months after surgery on the right hand and five after the left, I can operate CW at about 95% of my prior capability, although fastening buttons is still challenging. The surgery itself does damage to the nerves that results in a loss of feeling, greatest in the thumb and least in the small finger. The loss of touch will make it impossible to perform many tasks such as picking things up or fastening a button. Fortunately most of that will slowly return over the following year. If surgery is put off too long, permanent damage of the same sort will occur to the sense of touch that will not be cured by time. From my experience the following advice is given to my fellow FISTS operators. At the first sign of tingling in the fingers that can be shown to not be related to poor circulation, get a Nerve Conduction Test performed. If the loss is severe an operation is suggested without delay. At that time you may start feeling pain during the night, an indication that the condition is advanced and that the risk of permanent nerve loss is close at hand. If the nerve damage is not severe a watch should be put on the condition until surgery is indicated. I welcome comments by any of the FISTS family who might be orthopedic surgeons specializing in such surgery. I hope that this writing gives you some good guidance. Don't lose your fist!



#13576 —
My Favorite Links

73 Jack
W5ZXM
TULSA

Question for Aviation Buffs

Jack, W5ZXM, was invited aboard during an "Air-Venture" at Oshkosk, Wisconsin. It is the only aircraft of this type in the US that is still flyable.

Since a lot of FISTS are aviation buff, here's the question: WHAT IS IT ?

DK.BAS??

Anyone know of a program such as DK.BAS by Gary Bold (The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy, pp 76) available to run on newer computers? I would like to evaluate my sending on Paddles, Sk's and Bugs. Thanks Kelsey KK6AW

Send it to nancy@fir.com and I'll put it in the Keynote.

The NEW 2009 CW / Phone Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to promote activity on the CW amateur bands, to encourage the exchange of information that might lead to rag chewing and also to encourage interaction between FISTS members and non-FISTS members. It also provides a goal for those who need a reason to get on the air and make some QSOs!

Time Period: Contacts must be made during the calendar year of 2009. The award ends at the end of the calendar year 2009. Logs must be submitted by the end of January 2010.

Goal: To chat with hams who live in 100 different telephone area code districts. The area codes may be anywhere in the world, and the hams include all legally licensed operators. Contacts must be valid two-way Morse code contacts made on any of the legal ham bands.

Exchange: Any information may be exchanged during the course of the QSO, but the minimum information must include Name, QTH, signal report and area code.

Points: Each area code equals one point, with 100 points needed to earn the award. Each area code must be counted only once. **An area code is defined as the area code for the telephone number of the phone the person uses most often.** One area code is allowed per callsign. You must use the same area code for all QSO's that you make during the course of the year unless your station is physically moved to another area code.

For example, if you work someone and they give you the area code of their home phone, you cannot work them again and receive the area code of their cell phone or work phone for another point. Mobiles use the same area code as they use while operating fixed. **One area code per callsign only, unless you move your place of residence.**

No multipliers or bonus points for club stations. Everyone is worth one point.

Log Submission: A dupe sheet must be included with the log and will be available on the web page <http://www.fists.org>. Information to be included on the award log submission is Date of contact, Name, RST, QTH and area code. Awards can be postal mailed to Dennis K6DF, 4658 CAPITAN DR, FREMONT CA 94536-5448. Contact Dennis via fistsawards@comcast.net for information on emailing logs to him.

Certificates will be issued free of charge to FISTS members. Non-FISTS members, including those whose memberships are not in good standing (meaning you haven't paid your dues and your membership has lapsed at the time of application) please include \$4 to cover the cost of the certificate, envelope and postage.

Good luck and have fun!

International Morse Preservation Society



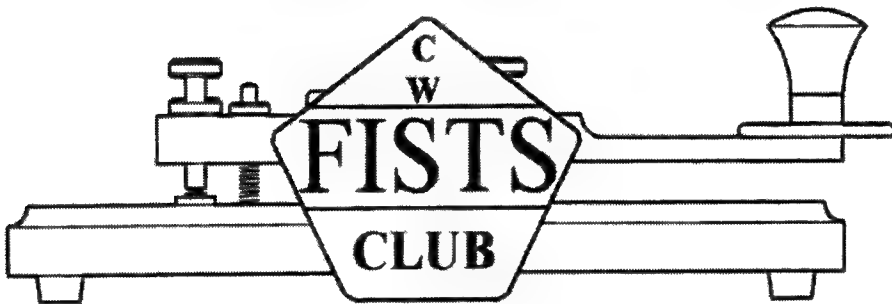
KEY NOTE



Founded in 1987 by the late Geo Longden, G3ZQS

Recommended calling QRGs: 1.818, 3.558, 7028, 10.118, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AUTUMN EDITION 2008



Club Goals

*Further the use of CW
Encourage newcomers to use Morse Code
Engender Friendships among members*

And remember
"Accuracy Transcends Speed , Courtesy at all Times"

EDITOR: M0BMN

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FISTS UK WEB SITE URL:- [HTTP://WWW.FISTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FISTS.CO.UK)

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend."

.Autumn Already !

The year is flying past again, now it Autumn, the summer didn't seem to last long, a few warm days and its over, lets hope we still have a week or two of warm weather before the autumn really sets in. Since the last edition I have had a busy time, as Chris my son gets older he is giving us more problems, (for those of you that are new to the club Chris is my 13 year old son that suffers from Autism) with work and his demands I find very little time for radio , Oh well with the darker nights I find Chris goes to bed a little earlier and so I hope to get a little on air time soon!

On the Job front I have recently made a change too, I was working for Bridgnorth District Council but with the change to large super councils I was going to be faced with a couple of hours travelling each day which I must admit I was not keen on, or find work else where. Well I applied for a Job in a local school doing ICT support and fortunately got offered the position which I started on the 1st September. I will let you know what its like in the winter edition but all seems well at the moment.

The old greenhouse toms are a bit strange this year. Normally they are all roughly at the same stage but this year I have had a much later crop than normal and the flowers seemed to have hung around much longer before the fruit started to form. Still the toms taste much better than the shop ones and if at the end of the year we have a lot of small green ones left over Anne makes a great tomato chuckney that will use them up without any waste.

I also have a few runner beans growing but they have not done to well this year, I have used the same patch of ground for them for a number of years and I guess that's the problem, next year I think I will put a few spuds in instead ! .Over the next few weeks I hope to lower the windom and give it a once over before the cold weather sets in, Its been up for a good few years now and although the antenna as been changed a couple of times the coax hasn't and if I get the chance I will replace the cable .I bought a reel of double screened RG58 a year or two ago and that will be very handy (If I can find It!).

I normally enjoy building some small project over the winter months but this year I think I will just try and spend more time on air. Over the last year I have found that the eyes seem to have got worse and I need glasses for close work. I really dislike glasses and so I am not really looking forward to any future building work I end up doing.

That brings me to another point, there must be a number of people out there that enjoy kit building, I have been asked a few times in the past for help with building kits but have not been able to point to any •] one that would be happy to do this work for others that can no longer do it themselves. If you fancy being a buddy builder drop me a line and I will put anyone that needs help in touch with you.

Still happy with the K3. Its a really great radio that has taken over from the K2 here in the shack. I take it along to rallies so its another good reason to come to Donington this year. I was really pleased with the response I got from the email forum group when I asked for

articles and that response as made this edition a bumper size edition. Thanks to all that sent me articles.

The Fists web site address was recently used to send spam emails to many people, the problem that gave me was loads and loads of returned emails that flooded my inbox. Its more than likely that if you emailed me and I have not replied by now that your mail was lost amongst the many junk mails I received. So please email me again and I should get it.

Club Project News

You may recall a couple of years ago we had a little club project to build a Small Wonder Labs (SWL) SW+ transceiver kit. Those that took part ended up with a nice little set that really does work and was ideal if you wanted a small low cost radio for holiday or just QRP use. I have received a few requests to re-run the project and I have asked any interested members to contact me. Well we have had a handful of members say that they are interested but certainly not enough to make it worth while as a club project.

But... If you do fancy having a go with one of these kits let me give you all the info you need to get one.

Take a look at our club web site's members area and click on club project, there you will find all the details on how to build one of these kits in step by step picture form. Have a good look and make sure you are happy with the work needed to build one, it can be made by a novice builder if they just take care and do not rush it.

If you still think its the thing for you then pop over to Daves web site for SWL (<http://www.smallwonderlabs.com>) there you will be able to order the basic kit for a one of a number of bands and I would recommend the special enclosure kit with all the knobs, sockets etc.

The total cost at the time of writing this is \$107 inc air shipping to the UK, that's around £55 plus VAT which will be charged by the post office when they delivery to you (about £10 I guess with their handling charge).

These little radios work well and put out 2-3 watts over a decent amount of CW sub band, if your thinking about a winter project then you could much worse than considering the SWL SW+ range.

Some Antenna Tips

Chances are that your are using a coax fed dipole antenna. Many people do. While that is not necessarily a bad thing there are a few things to consider The ordinary half wave dipole has a feed point impedance suitable for one band only. Which, not surprisingly, is the band for which it is half a wavelength long. If you feed the antenna in the middle with 50 ohm coax you should get a nice and low standing wave ratio, SWR. A SWR of 1:1 is ideal but anything less than 1:2 is perfectly adequate. If you do not use an antenna tuning unit, ATU, either internal to the rig or external then remember that most solid state amplifiers will reduce their output

when the SWR gets large. If your amplifier reduces output then by you should be able to get the SWR down a bit lower trimming the lengths of the dipole's legs.

If you are using the antenna for several other bands then the SWR will most likely be high on these bands and a ATU is a must. There is normally nothing wrong with this situation but coax is lossy and specially so if it has to transport HF energy at high SWRs. It is not hard to loose more than half the output power (3 dB) in the coax.

Now 3 dB is perhaps nothing to get hysteric about (some people, like me, also DX with QRP levels!) but one can argue that increasing the output power only to lose it in the coax is, at least, silly? At the end of the day one should try to keep the coax run as short as possible.

A high SWR is like trying to start a car on too high a gear: It will not budge. The gearbox transforms the motor's energy into something that makes the car move. For our antenna we need a ATU to transform our amplifier's energy into whatever the antenna accepts to radiate.

Using an antenna with high SWR without a ATU is not optimal and can also be harmful to the amplifier. A better way to feed the dipole is through ladder line. The ladder line has higher impedance but that is not important here (we shall try to keep the technical mumbojumbo out of this if possible). What is important is that ladder line has much lower loss EVEN when the SWR gets high. So feeding the dipole with ladder line makes the dipole an instant multi-band antenna! Unfortunately a ladder line needs a balanced ATU for best performance which can be achieved by attaching a balun (balanced to unbalanced) transformer between your tuner and the ladder. A balun is simple to make and in dire circumstances a balun sort of can be implemented with a few metres of coax rolled onto a cylinder with a diameter of, say, 10 cm (that's 4" for you pommies...). One end goes to your tuner the other to the ladder line.

Ladder line can be bought or manufactured at home. Ordinary household flex ripped apart makes excellent ladder line. Using small spacers the two wires should be spaced anything between 5 to 30 cm (2-6") apart. You need one spacer each half a metre (1-2') or so. When routing the ladder try to keep it away from metal by at least 30 cm (1').

Another ladder line type is made out of two close parallel coax wires. Use the centre wires as "ladder line" and short the braids together at both ends and ground the end to the rigs chassis. This line has somewhat higher loss but is perhaps more handy?

A dipole radiates mostly from its centre. It is therefore important to keep the centre up as high as possible. The far ends of the dipole need not be as high and can actually be folded down (but preferable not touching ground) with no detrimental effects on the radiation. The radiation is mainly at right angles from the wire with nil out from the ends. An effect of this is that half the energy is radiated onto the ground. Some of the energy penetrates the soil and makes the worms warm and cosy but most of it bounces back into the air again.

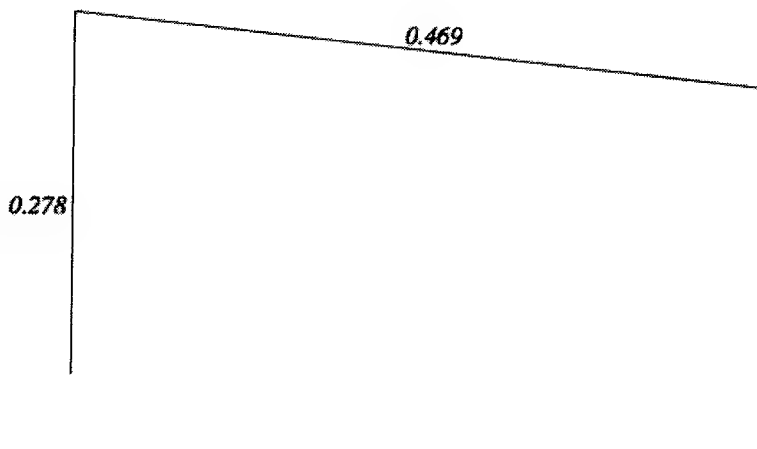
In this way the radiation straight down will bounce straight up and shoot into zenith where it eventually will hit the ionosphere and be reflected down to earth again - onto you or at least close to you! This is the basis for Near Vertical Incidence, NVIS, communication, enabling short range contacts. If you find that your dipole is best at shorter distances, say within a couple of hundred of kilometres then NVIS is likely your mode. Try raising the dipole centre higher and you should get better results at longer distances.

An uncommon trick is to flip the dipole vertical. This is perfectly possible and turns the antenna into a DX-only antenna.

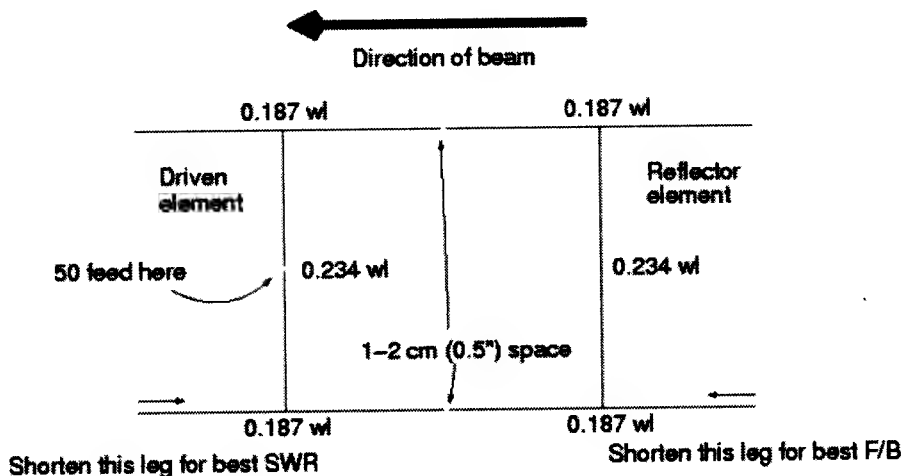
The radiation will now aim for the horizon and bounce off the ionosphere a very long way away! I have used a vertical half-wave dipole as my main DX-antenna for years and it works very well. In the picture you can also see my home made ladder line.



If you have been there, done that, got the T-shirt etc then a directional antenna might be your next project? A simple but effective (DX-wise) antenna is the half-square. It is also very simple to make. It consists of two vertical legs each $1/4$ wavelength long. These should be spaced $1/2$ wavelength apart and fed between one leg and the horizontal wire. Coax feed is preferred. There is some directivity broadside to the setup. You should get some 3-4 dB extra gain in this direction while sideways incoming signals should be 10-15 dB weaker. Not bad for a few wires! For most marked sideways rejection use the lengths (given in wavelengths) below, but the antenna is not that fuzzy. Really!



Beams usually need towers but several efficient wire beams may not require that amount of hardware. An lovely beam is the moxon (see www.moxonantennaproject.com for this fantastic antenna) and it can be made out of either wire or aluminium. Here I shall plug for a variant of the moxon, the G0GSF- wire beam. It can be described as a shortened moxon and is fairly easy to get going, see picture below



Calculate the lengths depending on your operating frequency: $1 \text{ wl} = 1 \text{ wavelength} = 300/\text{fMHz}$. For 14 MHz wire lengths are $0.187 \text{ wl} = 4 \text{ m}$, $0.234 \text{ wl} = 5 \text{ m}$. Trim lower right leg for best F/B and the left leg for best SWR. It really is as simple as that. Over ordinary ground it simulates thusly: And I am pretty sure the simulations agree with real life use of it. This is a favourite of mine which has served me during several portable operations. It does not weigh much, is easy to erect and works reliably.

Unfortunately it is a single bander - as a beam that is, I have used a 14 MHz version also at 18 MHz with fine results. Remember that one does not primarily use a beam to concentrate the emitted energy in one direction - but more often to silence the directions one does NOT want to hear. So the rearwards "deafness" of the GSF-beam is its main virtue not its gain!

Thanks Michael for a interesting technical article ...Paul M0BMN

A Letter From Tom DL3RL

Hello Paul,

I'm not sure if you want to mention it in the keynote, but a little note would be enough anyway. Starting January 1st, I will not be organized in the DARC any longer. Therefore, I designed my own webpage to still be able to exchange QSL cards in an easy way by showing my address and some additional info etc. on the webpage. It is the first website I created, so let me know what you all think. You can make entries in my guest book.

Here is the link www.dl3rl.de The site is in English, to better reach the whole ham community worldwide. 73, Tom, DL3RL

A Plea from Ken G3SDW

BT is rolling out there system called BT Vision which pumps data down the house mains wiring connecting it to the PC to make the system cordless. The frequency range is 3 to 30 MHz and is causing very bad QRM to any one who lives close to that sort on installation as the main wiring acts as an aerial. A Yahoo Group has been set up to try to sort the problem out via Ofcom and things are starting to happen. If you want to support our hobby please take a look at the posts that are on this site and also listen to what it sounds like by clicking onto the link below. There is also a link to the Yahoo site also. Many Amateurs and SWL's have joined, even the President of the RSGB G3PSM is giving his support so I hope that we can all stick together and make sure we can save our hobby or else HF will be a thing of the past.

This is what it sounds like http://youtube.com/watch?v=S__UBDaL-aE

They are looking for new members who are concerned about this spreading problem and who are willing to try and do something to stop it. If you already have the problem we can help you complain to Ofcom which may result in an improvement but more importantly raises the profile of the problem.

Please join with us if you care about shortwave and would miss your radio.

We are looking for UK members especially but welcome anyone from around the world.
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/UKQRM/> Thank you for your attention.

Regards Ken G3SDW #10898

Well I have watched the video and its very worrying , take a look yourself Paul

Chinese Whispers

Chris Pearson, M0JRQ

Pontefract and District Amateur Radio Society – PDARS – has a long history and a long association with CW, too. A number of our members have been Morse examiners in the past and Reg, G4KMW wouldn't recognise a mic if you hit him with one! (Sorry, Reg.)

Our club station, G3FYQ, has recently become FISTS number 14041. where a message is whispered first to one person. It's then passed person to person, without repetition or correction allowed: whispered along a line of participants. One of the classics of Chinese Whispers concerns the story of a junior officer in the trenches of World War I: ready to go over the top he

instructs a runner to take a message back to Brigade HQ. "Send reinforcements," he says, "we're going to advance." After passing this simple message from officer to runner, then up through the ranks, the Brigadier is later asked to "Send three and fourpence, we're going to a dance."

The Pontefract whispers will help our members improve accuracy – sending and receiving CW plus message handling accuracy. After a few weeks of Morse tuition, the CW Challenge will begin. Reg is running classes every Tuesday evening during July and August to get some beginners started. Later the group will include several members who once took the Post Office 12wpm test, polishing up the skills of some rusty operators. Many of these 'Class A' licence holders have keys in shack drawers still waiting, after many years in dusty darkness, to blink again in the light of day.

What happens? The challenge sees a control station working like the hub at the centre of a wheel with the participating challengers around its rim. Reg, the controller, sends the first message to station 1. The message is sent once, with no repeats and copied by the receiving station. The message is then passed, again with no repeats or corrections, from station 1 to station 2 and so on around the wheel until the last station makes the message back to control.

A second message is then sent from control to station two and passed round the wheel, with station 1 transmitting the message back to the controller. This continues until everyone has had a turn. We then get to see what's been copied around the group. The winner is, of course, the operator sending and receiving fewest errors.

Dave, G0SDO and I came up with the idea in the early summer and Reg tells us that a similar activity was used during his time in the RAF. Early sessions have confirmed that the challenge really does help to improve accuracy whether your natural speed is QRS or a rip-roaring QRQ. We're running the CW Challenge on 2m this time so that we have less band conditions to worry about (Does that mean 'Less excuses'?) but we are also thinking about an 80m event with a much bigger catchment area.

Its always interesting to hear what local clubs are up to and more so when it gets people involved with CW (Morse in this case Hi) ..Paul

Important News for anyone with a visual impairment

For some time now I have been asked if FISTS can offer a audio recording of Keynote, well I am very happy to announce that with the cooperation of the RAIBC we can now offer this service to our members that need this. Rather than me going on about it here are a few words from Chris Pearson , our member that as done all the work.

RAIBC – The Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club

Chris Pearson, M0JRQ

This issue of *Keynote* marks a significant development: it's the first *Keynote* that will be included in the Reading Rattle. But what, many of you will be asking, does that mean?

The Reading Rattle came into being in Reading, Berkshire thirty years ago. Graham

Bedwell, G3XYX, struck on the idea of taped recordings of magazines as a service for radio hams unable to read print media. Graham says, "There was no reading service of any type of radio magazines as far as I can remember at that time. So it started on cassette and open reel to reel tapes, reading *The Bull*, *Practical Wireless* and *Short Wave Mag.*"

Supporting radio amateurs

The Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club – better known as RAIBC – has itself been around since 1954. Like many national organisations, RAIBC has local representation around the country to support individual members and there are local nets on VHF. At the national level, it holds regular HF nets, including a very popular Tuesday morning 80m session. The club's magazine is called *RADIAL* and this is eagerly anticipated for news, members' views and coverage of their activities.

RAIBC is also well known for its equipment loan scheme, run by Quentin Cruse, GW3BV. The scheme provides amateur equipment to members plus information and advice for qualifying licensed amateurs and non-licensed radio hobbyists alike. Much of the equipment on loan has been donated by other hams. Sometimes, when older – even vintage – equipment is given to RAIBC, rather than passing that on to members, the equipment is sold to enthusiasts of older gear; the money raised is then used to buy new equipment.

For many FISTS members, RAIBC is probably best known through its regular attendance at rallies during the year. The support the club gets from its members really is terrific. And the readers recording audio versions of magazines and books are typical, many of whom have provided unstinting service not just over years but tens of years. Which brings us back to the Reading Rattle.

Audio recordings

Since 1978 the Reading Rattle has provided regular recordings for RAIBC members, moving with technology, through cassette tape to CD and internet distribution of MP3 files. I'm still very much a new boy I began reading *RadCom* for RR in the spring this year. I've taken up the reins from Alan Lovegreen, GM4FLX who is having a rest now that he's 86! Alan read *RadCom* for 30 years and remembers other RAIBC stalwarts like Brian Andrews, G4CTS; George Cassedy and Alec Littlewood to mention just three. I asked Alan how he got involved.

He told me "RSGB said that Frances Woolley, G3LWY had set up RAIBC with her late husband and she was doing something in the field of recordings for blind radio operators." Alan contacted Frances. "Frances told me about Graham Bedwell, G3XYX a BBC sound engineer who had started Reading Rattle and said no doubt he would be glad to hear from me." An understatement if ever there was one, since Graham Bedwell himself says, "I must hasten to add I started RR as a one man band which was not very sensible," and he goes on to mention that without the support of readers and contributors RR would not have thrived.

Alan himself not only read *RadCom* until this spring but – along with many other titles has

also recorded the *Foundation Licence Now!* course book through its many revisions.

RR publishes audio copies of magazines on the RAIBC web site each month – in a members only area – and the scheme produces a quarterly CD which is distributed to subscribers. So *Keynote* is joining a highly regarded and popular selection of magazines. Further benefits should also come through raising the profile of FISTS amongst RAIBC members and, the other side of the same coin, of RAIBC and its activities in the eclectic group that makes up FISTS' membership in the UK and beyond.

Alan Lovegreen sums it up, saying "It has been a good effort and I am really happy when someone comes up and says 'I know that voice. I got my licence with your recordings.' That's what it's all about."

Get involved

FISTS members wanting more information can visit the RAIBC web site at www.raibc.org.uk, where there is plenty of further information and contact points are listed. The club's present Chairman is Kelvin Marsh, M0AID and he can be emailed at chairman@raibc.org.uk; the club's membership secretary is Brian Tuffill, M0FFS who uses the email address memsec@raibc.org.uk. If you can't get to the web site or use email for whatever reason, you can write to Brian who lives at 1, Loggans Close, Loggans Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5BD. Otherwise, please get in touch with FISTS who can give you assistance and information on contacting RAIBC in other ways.

This is great news for FISTS, we do have a number of members that are also members of the RAIBC and now they will be able to continue keeping up on FISTS news. The recordings will be available in mp3 format and can be accessed from the link in the members section of the FISTS web site. Small cheap MP3 players can be found all over the place from just a few pounds so this is a great reason to buy one, also the FISTS CW course is in this format so why not ask Anne to send you a copy of that too. It only cost you the postage as the disk is free !

4U1WED – A special callsign of the United Nations in Vienna to celebrate the World Environment Day on June 5, 2008

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme).

Under the subject „greening the VIC“ the United Nations in Vienna was the meeting point and location for several companies and organizations involved in climate and environment protection. Among the exhibitors were the administration of the city of Vienna, several departments of the UN, car rental companies etc. The goal of all of these participants was to sharpen the visitors' consciousness for saving and protecting our vulnerable earth.

The president of the UNSRC Amateur Radio Club in New York therefore allowed the Vienna International Amateur Radio Club (4U1VIC) to use the special callsign 4U1WED (World environment day) between June 1 and June 30, 2008.

Lead by Rom, OE1RKS (4U1VIC), on June 5, 2008, operators of the Austrian Amateur Society (OEVSU) together with radio amateurs of the United Nations Vienna have been operating as 4U1WED on the shortwave bands in SSB and CW and on 70 cm FM. Rom kindly invited me the day before to join this special event, and of course I gladly followed this offer.

A day before the operating tent had already been set up by the members of 4U1VIC on the huge round plaza in front of the UN buildings. The tent was our QTH that day and sheltered us from the rain. Solar panels had also been installed, so we could power our gear in an environment friendly manner. On top of the roof of the conference building two G5RV antennas had been installed. We also installed a temporary wire vertical antenna on one of the flagpoles.

The flagpoles really are nice opportunities for antenna installations and we are considering to use the 192 poles as an array... From 0930 to 1500 local time (0730 to 1300 UTC) I was active on 40, 30 and 20 meters, exclusively in CW. My IC7000 and the Palm mini paddle together with the Code cube did a nice job. Pileups have been amazingly heavy, especially in the afternoon on 30 and 20 meters. It was fun to be (once) again on the other side of the crowd.

During the operation we used ordinary paper logs but all contacts have been added to the computer later. Gerhard, OE3GSU, head of the OE3 division of the OEVSU, Karl, OE3KYS and Christian, OE3CJB demonstrated the „emergency suitcase“, basically a metal box containing an FT857D, a TNC, power supply and some other necessary items. The box can easily be transported anywhere where it is needed. This way reliable communication on the shortwave bands as well as on VHF/UHF is possible. They were operating Pactor and 70cm FM. Rom, OE1RKS and Stuart, OE1ZGS/W4PR operated in SSB. Jun, OE1ZKC/JH4RHF was so kind to lend us his IC 756 pro III for the SSB station. In the afternoon some more operators joined the team. Mike, OE3MZY (president of the OEVSU) and top DXer Gun, OE3GCU continued to work on the shortwave bands until around 1700 local time (1500 UTC).

During our operation interested visitors could watch the action. Information brochures, old Ham Radio magazines, licence training courses etc. were available for everyone free to take. People could directly ask us about our hobby and many were amazed, that even in our highly technological world with cell phones and the Internet, some people are still using radio waves and short waves to communicate over long distances. Even morse code is still being done – for many people it was the first time they heard real Morse transmissions. We could tell them the good news that in case everything else fails we were still ready to bring that important message through. The idea to use solar power for our radios was being well received by the visitors and fitted perfectly to the „kick the habit“ theme of the day.

In total around 2500 QSO's have been logged with 4U1WED between June 1 and June 30, 2008. During the event on June 5 we could make 533 contacts (290 CW/234 SSB/9 FM). *(Note More CW contacts than the other modes added together...Ed)*

It's a pity that we could not stick to our original plan not to send paper QSL's for environmental reasons and to confirm only via EQSL and LOTW. Too many OM's asked us for „real“ cards so the UN finally gave in and decided to order printed QSL's which will be sent out automatically via the OE bureau. All contacts have already been confirmed via EQSL and – valid for DXCC – also via the ARRL's Logbook of the World.

The following persons were involved in 4U1WED:

For 4U1VIC: Rom, OE1RKS – Stuart, OE1ZGS/W4PR Jun, OE1ZKC/JH4RHF – Alex, OE1AWB

For the OEVSU: Gerhard, OE3GSU – Mike, OE3MZC – Karl, OE3KYS – Christian, OE3CJB Günther, OE3GCU

And as a guest op Hannes, OE3SGU

Summarised I may say that it has been a lot of fun and we hope that 4U1WED will be on the air again in the coming years. Thanks to all participants and particularly to Rom, OE1RKS for the invitation. Hannes Grünsteidl, OE3SGU, for 4U1WED

Pictures and information about 4U1WED and the World Environment Day can be found at: <http://www.oe3.oevsv.at/opencms/moduleimages/4u1wed/bildergalerie.html>

<http://www.oe3.oevsv.at/opencms/moduleimages/4u1wed/wed.html>

<http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Environment_Day

Website of the UN organisations in Vienna: www.unvienna.org

Website of 4U1VIC by JH4RHF: <http://www.qsl.net/4u1vic/>

Thanks for the Info, I'm glad to see such a import event had a strong CW element and that it showed people that CW is still alive and well. Paul M0BMN

The Garden Fence

In the last edition I asked anyone that would like to thank their partner or wished to let of steam about the other half's radio antics to drop me a line, I have only received one article for this section so come on, invite your partner to put pen to paper or keyboard.

The secret of a happy marriage within amateur radio is to catch them young. You then encourage them to do useful things like providing a helping hand with soldering bits together, drilling holes in bits of metal, putting up aereals, sorting qsl cards, brewing tea and

coffee for visitors etc. Of course, all of this comes at a price. In return you must treat her like a Princess, take her on holiday in distant places (where by some strange coincidence you might just happen to meet some foreign hams), get involved with her projects and help entertain her friends etc.

On a more serious note, I was first licensed in October 1953 while training as a Naval Artificer Apprentice and Sheila and I met in the December when I was home on Xmas leave. We married at St. Paul's Church in Hounslow in July 1957 so have been together now for nearly 55 years and married for more than 51. Although Sheila is not interested in amateur radio as such she has always been supportive and has enjoyed being involved with amateur radio social activities. Certainly, her early 'initiation' into the ways of amateur radio was a good long term investment as even now she helps to get my long wire back in the air after it has broken in high winds. Also, the first time it was broadcast, she recognised a CQ call being sent out on a TV advert.

Being retired, I spend a lot of time on the air or in the workshop while Sheila spends a lot of time watching soaps and enjoying her own interests. We also spend a lot of time together so, like many aspects of life, it all comes down to maintaining a healthy balance. Remember, amateur radio is a hobby – do not let it become an obsession. Family first, hobbies last that is the real secret.

Finally, Sheila's thoughts – 'I have no problem with amateur radio (except when he messes up my tellie!) and I never understand why so many wives/girlfriends have such a dislike of the hobby. If the OM is in the shack at least you know where he is.' 73 Peter G3JFS

Thanks Peter and Sheila, 55 years together, Me and Anne haven't even made it half of that yet! Any more articles for "The garden fence" please email or write to me .

Planning Problems

by David VK3DBD/G3SCD

Hi Paul,

No doubt this will not be so topical by the time it reaches the publishing stage of Keynote if it gets there at all.

My big gripe at the moment is the attitude of local councils/planning dept to antennas. Nothing new you may say, But I have recently had a letter from our local Dictators (I presume as a result of a neighbours complaint) and we only have ONE neighbour demanding that I remove my aerial masts within 28 days or reduce them to 90 cm (yes 90 centimetres).

I have a scaffold pole about 18ft high and a shorter one about 10ft high in the garden, neither can be seen from the road or any public area or in fact from the neighbours house.

Both are tied up to a fence and shed with string and so I regard these as temporary structures: They have actually been there for over a year now, possibly two. I should explain I

refer to our QTH near Horn castle, Lincs. The 28 days have now elapsed and I am awaiting the fireworks. And of course, some clarification about the 90 cms above what?

As a token gesture I have firmly planted in the ground a post to hold the washing line, it is about 10 feet high. And it really does have a washing line on it Now my little problem pales with insignificance compared with a much bigger and more significant antenna mast problem in USA at the QTH of K5RC.. who happens to have a dream antenna farm and who is now facing a law suit caused by complaints from his near neighbour, a planning officer who has arranged issues of a stop work order when he was in process of erecting a tower which planning had already been passed. That item was recently discussed on the FOC reflector. I won't go on but interested parties may wish to look at Toms website (see qrz) and the web link .

<http://www.nevadapeal.com/article/20080720/NEWS/792120336/1058/HEALTH&parentprofile=-1>

Back in Lincolnshire, I should briefly explain that my QTH here in Lincs (G3SCD) is only likely to be in use for a month or three each year, as we spend most of the year in VK (Fists 3756 VK3DBD) and although I have been QRV most days since June 1st Fists members on any band, 3.5 upwards do seem as rare as hens teeth.

Stop Press: today, July 25th I had a ball, on 80 metres I found G4LMW fists member 14000 my biggest number ever! Followed immediately by a qso with Bryan G0GSY and then G3AHS So there really are some other fists alive and active out there.

Looking around the bands most days, all except 160 which I do not have a reasonable antenna for, I find that early mornings and late evenings seem to be the time for maximum activity. But this does depend on the band. I have heard the odd station on 21mHz and a few on 18mHz in the early afternoon. on 80m, the band one would most expect G's to be heard is mostly silent during the day, although I don't think this is entirely the result of the propagation, it is the ops that are silent! When a contest is on, day and night, the bands are full of QSOs seems to prove a point eh?

Certainly propagation is poor: I arranged a sked on 30m with Fists member Dave, VK3FGE the other day and at 0600z called him on a "dead" band. He replied immediately and although it was not a really solid comfortable qso, we exchanged reports and a few comments and arranged a qsy to 20m, which failed. At my end I copied him a real 539, he sent me a mere 339 but obviously managed to read some of my little puffs of rf coming from the low 30/40 meter dipole hanging all of 12 feet about the garden. Dave has an impressive mast some 70 ft high, a pair of delta loops for 30 and 40m grace the top. But we were both only using 100 watts.

During my time in UK this year I have been interested to note the relatively large number of qrp stations working with simple and/or compact transmitters like the Rockmite, FT 817, IC703, K2 and various homebrew flea power rigs. CW is not dead..... I tend to winkle those signals out as I am sure they appreciate a contact more than some. The 80 and 40 m bands seem to be the favourites for QRP, but of course those who work the higher freqs prob-

ably would not be heard in Ganyway! All goes to show how a good challenge stirs some of us into action!

I expect to be in England until sometime in September, so look out for that rare G3SCD call and for those with HF tendencies, I look forward to hearing some of you in VK in the future. I'm always happy to try a sked with anyone on request, just email to vk3dbd@gmail.com
73 David VK3DBD/G3SCD

Rob M0BPT Writes

Congratulations on the Spring/Summer edition of Keynote. As ever an interesting and informative read. Your piece entitled "The Garden Fence" telling the tale of woe regarding the mast etc. Had me reaching for the keyboard with much amusement. I was one of the riggers on this exercise, and I well remember the day in question. Even though it was almost ten years ago! What wasn't mentioned? The fact that the wind was blowing very strongly that day, with gusts up to 50mph as I remember! In a moment of madness, and to save me a wasted journey I cajoled the others present to go ahead with the attempt to get this monster pole in the air once and for all! One or more of the guy ropes being let loose by others present! Me leaning a ladder against the once erected item while the others held on to pole and ladder with determination, and with a cobbled together Heath Robinson hook assembly, trying to retrieve the wayward guy ropes which were, with the already mentioned strong gusts, happily blowing between 45-90 degrees from the vertical across the bemused neighbours gardens! When I look back over the years, what I (And no doubt other amateurs) have done in the pursuit of this great hobby of ours, I tend to shudder, but with a smile.

I'd noticed sadly that Tom, G3EFY # 6034 had made his way to the SK list in the previous Keynote. I conversed with Tom in the late nineties after contacting him on 80 with QRP whilst using a (real) Windom aerial for evaluation at my rural weekender in Worcestershire. I remember Tom commenting that he hadn't heard anyone using a windom for years, and in the ensuing correspondence, I'd made the observation about the problems I'd had trying to get my catapult to propel my light "String" to a decent height for the ends of the aerial etc. He subsequently replied with a tale of when he had used a bow and arrow to propel ropes to dizzy heights for his windom to be used during a post-war NFD event, with a G3 companion asking the concerned bystanders and users of the public area where they were operating to keep out of the way whilst Tom was doing his impression of an English Civil War bowman!... In conclusion, it should be pointed out to newer members of our society and hobby that safety is of paramount importance whilst erecting aerials/masts etc. The above mentioned happened many years ago, when health and safety practices were, at least, not as stringent as they are nowadays!

QRS Operation

In the last edition Richard F5VID gave us his thoughts on QRS operation, I have received a few letters from members about this subject.

Rob M0BPT wrote

I read with great interest, the article from Richard F5VJD #4870 entitled "Quickly Rectified

Speed” Richard raised some excellent points which I assume were intended to promote healthy debate discussion on the subject.

My thoughts... Character speed of 12-15wpm with extended gaps, gaps gradually reduced to achieve to the desired requirement for a test pass is the way I and countless others were learnt. I’ve found that since getting the pass slip, your receiving speed increases subconsciously, again, no doubt also many others. Sadly, the required level of competence is no longer with us. As Richard points out, Morse does seem to be “en vogue” of late. Great for us who are enthusiastic users and wish to see the art perpetuated. But with no structured network of learning facilities as before, this is where the problem lies, GB2CW here in the UK has been resurrected and rightly so, but it should be used with the old structured learning centres that amateur radio clubs and evening institutes used to offer. I would hope that our and other countries national societies will look at the option of reinstatement of the national network of learning centres. Much sooner rather than later!

Regarding QRQ operation.....I’m of the opinion that, although it has its niche within amateur radio. QRQ operation, over the years has been the one sole reason that has, after asking questions to other amateurs, as to why they didn’t continue with CW after getting the pass slip; and led to many ceremoniously “Burying” their Morse key under the tree at the bottom of the garden and continuing on HF with other modes. (Mainly J3 operation) .Some time ago, I was pleased to receive a call back from an ON station after a general “CQ” The ON station told me after exchanging pleasantries that I was his first CW contact in over ten years! “This would explain his hesitancy and nervousness” I’m thinking. However, time to say “goodbye” And he’s looking forward to receiving my card for his 1 st CW contact in ten years etc.etc. When another amateur calls him and proceeds to rattle it out in excess of 20+ wpm! So here we are, after a CQ and QSO at 12wpm and encouraging a fellow amateur to rejoin CW, his confidence was no doubt destroyed again by bullish behaviour...I’m not suggesting that Richard or anyone else involved with our mode and society would act in this unpleasant manner! I’m merely illustrating the “QRQ Trap” Richard points out that when increasing speed and you return to normal operating speed how much slower it seems. This is what I consider to be the QRQ trap, where an op is used to sending at much higher speeds and finds it difficult to slow down, gets excitable and is soon back to using “Machine Gun Morse” Rendering the contact, to copy a phrase from Richards article “A painful and unpleasant experience”

Dear Paul,

Richards’s (F5VJD) article hit the nail on the head.

A friend who worked himself up to being competent at 50+ wpm told me that when he could copy 80% at a given speed he increased his practice speed. Most operators can send faster than they can receive so following his example should be no problem. If you concentrate on rubber stamp QSOs it will be even less of a problem. Using off air aids is not enough.

Please get a competent cw operator to check regularly your sending. If you can’t find one then record your sending put the tape to one side for a week and then listen to it. It is most distressing to hear some of the new cw operators who are trying so hard but sending virtually unreadable CW.

Remember that there are three types of QSO: the rag chew, the rubber stamp, and the contest/DX QSO. Most operators find that they can handle these at different speeds; use this fact to pull your speed up. After rubber stamping at 20 wpm rag chewing at 15 wpm seems dead slow.

Finally adopt a positive attitude; learning cw is fun, you are learning a new skill, and you are improving all the time. Practice regularly, remember when you learnt to drive how you pestered Dad to take you out. That was a new skill and it was not easy to master it but you wanted to do it. It is the same with mastering cw.

Dear Paul

Re Richard Sayer's comments on increasing your CW speed. I am reminded of the methods used by the RAF in 1941. From the beginning we learned the sounds of the letters, no question of counting dots. I well remember being told that C sounded like 'murder murder', and Q was 'here comes the queen'. We were taught mainly by peace time operators, and they knew their stuff. We had one hour lessons twice a day. In the course of about three months we worked up to 12 wpm, with tests at 5, 7, 9 and 12 wpm, both code and plain language. We were allowed three goes at each test, and if we failed three times in succession, that was the end of it as far as being aircrew was concerned. You had to remuster to another job. A few were accepted as straight gunners. In 1941 they were still thinking in terms of three kinds of aircrew pilot, observer and wireless operator/gunner. This was despite the fact that the big four engined 'heavies, were already operating! It was not until 1944 that it dawned on the authorities that wireless ops had a full time job, and did not need to take a gunnery course. by 1943 the gunnery course for wireless ops had been reduced to a fortnight's ground school after which you suddenly became a sergeant! By this time we were up to and beyond 18 wpm. Going back to the Morse tests, at Blackpool these were held at Burton's (the tailors). Was this the origin of the term "Gone for a Burton", meaning killed on ops? Certainly, if you failed the Morse test you were usually "grounded". For various reasons I did not get into amateur radio till I was 69 and retired (1989). In the intervening years I had hardly listened to any CW, but when I started listening on the bands I could still read. To begin with I missed words and letters, but after about 18 months of regular listening I romped through the test with ease (12 wpm). I would definitely recommend learning the letters by the sound. I can send to myself with the tongue, not saying 'dit' and 'dah', but 'du' and 'dur'. Du is to rhyme with the as in 'the cat'. So 'accuracy' would be 'du-dur, dur-du-dur-du, dur-du-dur-du, du-du-dur, du-dur-du, du-dur, dur-du-dur-du, dur -du-dur-dur'. I have noticed that musical people are often good readers and senders. My friend Cliff G3EBH, now silent key, could send beautiful Morse, and he was a gifted church organist. I have been an amateur musician, and I enjoy the rhythms of good CW.

BRASSPOUNDER

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Welcome to the round up of whats been happening on the activities within FISTS. Since the last edition, The results of the "Mixed Key Week" Activity are in. Sadly, poorly attended, so I've decided to end MKW and replace it with new challenge in 2009. I've had emails from disappointed entrants. But I can assure them the 2009 replacement will be as much, if not more, fun than MKW.

MKW 2008 Results Table

CALL	POINTS
IK2RMZ	128
G4LHI	33
PA3AFF/qrp	23
G8XGQ	11.

Also the EUCW (FISTS Sponsored) QRS Party took place during 28th April – 2 nd March. Although conditions were bad, as commented by many of the participants. Which would explain the turnout being less than the 2007 Party. Nevertheless, members who did participate, enjoyed themselves. Let's look at some of the reports/comments received from participants.

Firstly from YL op Rosel DL2FCA representing AGCW

Dear OM Robert, my LOG with 62 QSO's during the EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY. It was so nice to work in QRS and I met some old friends from years before. This year I haven't been able to spend the full time in the Party, but I look forward to the next year.

Rosel Dach/ YL DL2FCA/ AGCW 2051, HSC 1858, FMC 41. STN:

PWR 100W: ANT W3DZZ & 3 El. Beam: KEY ETM 8C

vy 73 es cwfe Rosel DL2FCA

A pleasure to have you join the party Rosel.

From Peter.G3JFS. FISTS

This year I operated with QRO, which was just as well, as the conditions were very bad much like last year, only worse. Out of 148 contacts 20 Fists and 2 EUCW Club members were worked. Few of these were taking part in the QRS Party and several even said that they didn't know anything about it! Despite the poor conditions some reasonable dx was worked such as ZD7X, FM5LD, 5Z4FM and GM0HCQ/MM in the South Atlantic, who was homeward bound from the Antarctic. These were the only contacts made on 17m and nothing was even heard on the higher bands at the times I was active. 30m was the best band for contacts though the only members I worked were David, VK3DBD, and Erkki, OH7QR. Peter G4LHI was very active on 30m but I never managed to copy him in Plymouth. We finally met up in the last hours of the Party on 80m and had a 30-minute chat before the propagation between us failed. I then went on 30m and rounded off the log nicely at 2230z by working Ivan, CP8XA (ex G0LNX). 30m is worth watching in the current conditions as there is of ten activity there for much of the day when the higher bands are dead.

Here is a summary of the countries worked:

Band 160 80 40 30 20 17 15 12 10

DXCC 5 10 14 29 17 3 0 0 0 .

Although the level of participation was disappointing I had a lot of good contacts and renewed several old friendships. Quite a few QRP stations were contacted and this was possi-

bly due to a note in a recent SPRAT magazine suggesting that G qrp club members should monitor the FISTS calling frequencies for activity. **G3JFS Station** : FT1000MP MK •JV and an IC706 with 5 •J150 watts, as appropriate. Antennas – a bent 120 ft end fed tuned with a *Smartuner in a garden shed and a 40m doublet with tuned feeders.* 73 Peter G3JFS FISTS # 8985.

Thanks for a concise report on your week in QRS Peter. I notice that 30m was of interest to you (And others) during the party week.

From Werner DK6TV. AGCW

I enjoyed the "EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY" very much and it was a great pleasure to have all these very nice QSO's. Till next year bcnu / cwfe = 73 de Werner DK6TV

Glad to hear you enjoyed the Party week Werner. As a matter of interest, I was active with club call GX3ZQS intermittently during the party week. I managed to meet GXØIPX (Operated by G3VVP) on band for a chat. Sadly I missed Werner who called in to GXØIPX shortly after I'd cleared.

From Peter G4LHI.FISTS

Hello Robert, My EUCW QRS Party report.

I was very pleased and enjoyed the nice QSO's and chats and a nice lot of points, albeit not a contest, but was rather disappointed this year with the lack of EUCW Clubs activity, apart from the Fists Club, I only found AGCW, BQC & G/QRP, there may well have been others who I missed & my apologies to them. Last year I worked at least 7 Clubs. Was very pleased to find Fred with GXØIPX on Thursday, the one and only time I have found him during his spell with the Clubs National Call, and he told me I had just missed you working him with GX3ZQS, sorry about that Robert. Hope you both had a nice lot of QSO's with those special Calls. I would like to thank all the stations that had QSO's with me during the week, sometimes each day, it was great fun and so nice to meet up with so many good friends normally only found once a year on this QRS Party, including Rosel, Piet and Pol. Hope you all did well? Hope you get a good response to this 2008 EUCW QRS Party Robert and look forward to the 2009 event.

As ever, a pleasure to hear from you with your report Peter. the turn out was lower than last year but hearing reports about conditions not being good, I suspect that op's who were on air decided to give points away to the determined people who did soldier on.

Erkki OH7QR comments, Conditions are slowly improving but not yet very good. 17M was very seldom open. 30M seems to be the best band.

It was a pleasure to hear from Larry, KC2OJZ from FISTS NA who comments.

Thank you for this great party; although I was not able to contact GB with any consistency, it was fun contacting the QRP from Europe. I think they were happy as well. Best one so far was .49 of a watt from GB the op was very happy with the contact. I had a lot of fun. I have

been a ham since 2005 and have learned to love CW. I'm not real fast but I have a lot of fun and get to meet some great people. Larry KC2OJZ

Good to have you join in Larry. I'm sure the EU stations would have been very pleased to make your acquaintance. Let's hope that conditions improve sufficiently over the coming year and you'll make the trip over the pond with consistency.

From Adriaan PAØATG Ben-QRP

Still bad CNDX. Not so many CQ-QRS-callers at the time I joined the party. CU next year. RADIO: ICOM IC 703 running 5 watt output. ANTENNA: 20m end fed wire.

Again, Adriaan sums up the general feeling regarding condx this year. Peter HB9DST who had entered on behalf of the Helvetia Telegraphy Club (Thanks Peter) also commented that repeated calls of "CQ QRS" fell on barren ground. Let's hope that conditions improve (How many times have we said or thought this?) Over the coming year and EUCW QRS 2009 is a well attended success! Thanks to you all for joining in and supporting the event. Some images of members with their awards. Firstly, images and an excellent article from Fred G3VVP, Fred was one of the recipients of the shared award in the "Most readable Morse" Category.

"At risk of BP being withdrawn under the obscene publications act, I have decided to comply with a request from Robert M0BPT, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief and Senior Scribe of this journal, to produce a jpeg of self holding recently awarded MRM Certificate (or part thereof) from EUCW QRS Party 2008. As this may be the final chance I would like to congratulate my fellow recipients of this award and invite them to join me in a 'penalty shootout' in 2009."

For the inquisitive amongst us here are a few images of the 'Franken key' used throughout the month that I was activating GX0IPX. Not easily recognised in this naked state, it usually resides inside a grey box, surrounded by peripheral components and sitting on a large base. It is the inner workings of a long lever, leaf spring fulcrum NATO key, very similar to the famous Swedish Pump by Lennart Pettersson.

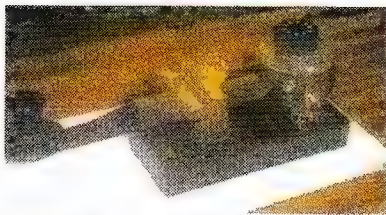
Given to me last December as just the keying mechanism on the moulded Bakelite base and, as you can see from the relative lengths, very prone to 'lifting' when keyed. A quick trip to the local Cook Shop, purchase of an anti-bacterial chopping board and 10 minutes with some hand tools produced a very stable key which is a joy to use and "bug free" of course. The material of these boards is very easy to work, makes excellent key bases, insulators or dipole centre's or you can even cut it into strips for spreaders if you use open wire feeders. For a Fiver you can have a whole bag full of useful 'goodies' from just 1 board.

This key may not come with a 'Certificate of Authenticity' but it does have it's own dated, and timed, Co-op Till receipt!. Begali, Vibroplex, Schurr..... eat your heart out! 73 all, have fun and pound brass!. Fred G3VVP Fists#5541 G3VVP with his "MRM" shared award and images of his "Franken-key" Used in EUCW QRS 2008 whilst



very kindly activating FISTS club call GXØIPX. I hope the other recipients of the award will take up Fred on his challenge for the 2009 EUCW QRS! I can inform you all that all three FISTS club stations, GXØIPX, MX5IPX and GX3ZQS will

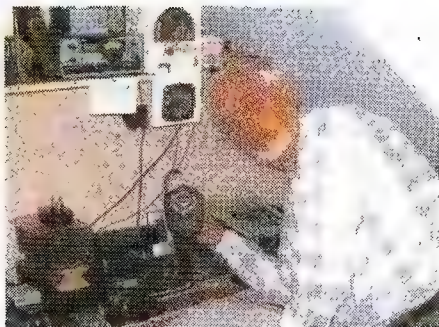
be on air during SKW (Straight Key Week) 2008. Many thanks must go to members G3JFS (GX0IPX) and G3VVP (MX5IPX) for volunteering their services with the calls.



Pictured is Rosel Dach. DL2FCA who represented AGCW in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party 2008. Rosel was also a recipient of a MRM shared award. Rosel commented "It makes me proud and happy to receive the MRM Shared award, I'm looking forward to next year, if my family situation allows me to, I'll be QRV again in the EUCW/FISTS QRS party 2009!"

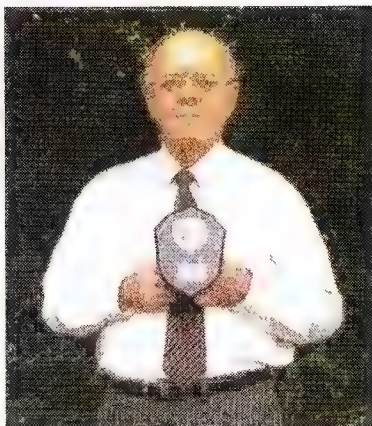


Pictured here on the left is Robi. HB9DEO. The third of the MRM Shared award recipients. Robi represented HTC during EUCW Week. Also pictured with his award is Paul. HB9DST. Paul operated HB9HTC (Helvetia Telegraphy Club) in the Class B section during EUCW Week. Congratulations to you both!



Adriaan. PAØATG (Benelux QRP) EUCW 2008 Class B (QRP) Winner in his shack with some of the QRP equipment used. On the left is the Icom IC-703 on top of the TS-120V, both used for contest work. The IC-703 is also used for PSK. On the shelf is an old Heathkit HW-8. He tells me that not in the picture are his six hand keys and one microphone (Hi).

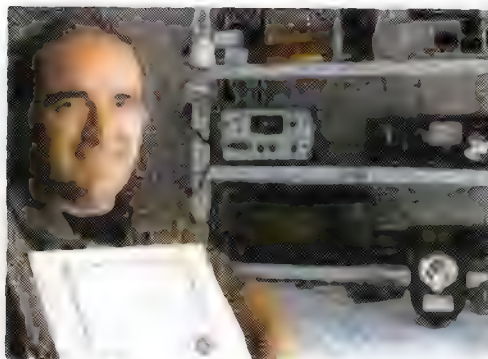
Pictured with his award for top spot in the EUCW QRS 2008 Class "A" Section. Is Peter. G3JFS. Peter amassed a winning score of 148 QSO's. Congratulations on his excellent score



Here's an image of award recipient Tony. G8XGQ. Tony, as many of you will know is a long time supporter of FISTS activities. He is pictured with his award for his efforts in MKW 2008. Tony emailed to say how disappointed he was to hear that I'd decided to end MKW because of lack of interest. He takes an active part in all activities in within FISTS.



Martin. IK2RMZ in his shack pictured with his awards. Winner: MKW 2008. Runner up: EUCW QRS 2008. Congratulations to Martin for his efforts



Very pleasing to see members and non-members who are willing to send an image for inclusion in BPI. I receive many mails from members saying how good it is to put a face to the fist they've been meeting on air regularly for a number of years, either in activities, or answering general "CQ's"! Long may it continue.

The monthly ladder and WARC Activity have been going along nicely. I managed a full four hours of operation on the ladder during the 22nd of June! I'm quite sure that I may have surprised one or two when answering their CQ's! Very pleased to meet G3JFS and others for the first time. Condx were "marginal" shall we say, but kept plodding along, as ever nice to meet again, G4LHI and G6GUN. I'd just made contact with Ken, G3SDW, who then suffered a power failure! I wondered where you'd disappeared to Ken!

Lets take a look at the results tables for the past three months

Firstly the WARC Table:

Call	May	June	July	Multi	Gr-Total
G4LHI	231	172	230		11872
IK2RMZ	325	158	119	89	6
K4UK	92	92	106	68	84116
G6GUN	99	89	75	82	42558
OH7QR	87	59	59	41	20459
W4YE	46	14	29	21	10836
MØDRK	52	33	29	25	5750
KA3NZR	12	28	29	20	4860
G8XGQ	26	27	17	24	2352
W4FCR ©	8	9	8	13	1755
2E0TEK	44	0	21	17	850
DL1GBZ/	21	18	0	9	585
DP6M	0	0	1	3	468
K4ORD	0	0	0	8	264
G0XAH	1	10	8	4	132
PA3AFF				3	57

Bob. G6GUN, and Erkki. OH7QR, have both been activating various locator grid squares during the past few months.

Bob whilst carrying out his work, which takes him to all compass points within the UK.

Erkki whilst visiting different places of interest to him and XYL Leena. Erkki e-mailed to let me and others know that he'd making the trip to the Island of Hailuoto. IOTA EU-184 (Grid squares KP24 and KP25) And be operational during the 7-8th of July. He sent a report and two images recording his time there.



I had 23 QSOs on 30 meters and 15 on 20 meters. No success on 17 meters. One DX: with JA5TNF on 20 with 569/579. The picture shows the QTH on Monday the

7th. The weather was not very good during our stay on the island. Only the first day (Monday) was nice, then it was rain and cold. There are many narrow forest-roads on the island and we could easily reach the seaside. There are also many paths



for hiking, but the mosquitoes were too angry with us and we didn't walk much. Once we frightened an elk and I managed to take a snap.

Meanwhile, G6GUN was active as GM6GUN/m from various locators

Bob, G6GUN, ready to get into his "Office"

Bob is a regular supporter of the WARC and ladder activities.



He enjoys giving out new grids to all who hear him whilst working /m. Pictured with his Icom 706, tuner and aerial in his working environment.



He has opened up various new grids throughout the UK whilst stopping for a rest breaks and during overnight stops. He uses his trusty 30 year old Butternut Vertical which he assembles and takes down when finished.

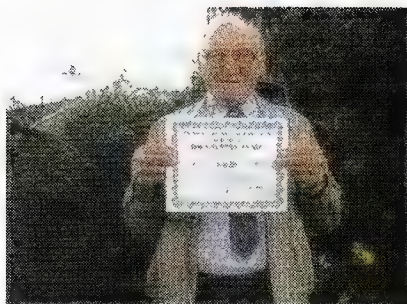


Nice to see both Erkki and Bob activating new locator grids and generally meeting members whilst /m. I understand that they get quite a following when on their travels! Lets hope that a few more will hook up with them. Join the FISTS News Group on the internet (if you have access of course.) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/> for information about expeditions and general CW interest.

On to the ladder activity totals for the past three months.

	MA			
CALL	Y	JUN	JUL	TOTALS
G6GUN	43	40	36	255
G4LHI	36	37	35	232
IK2RMZ	9	17	25	141
OH7QR	14	21	15	112
MODRK	17	10	11	97
G8XGQ	16	13	12	84
MOJRQ	0	0	0	45
2E0TEK	21	0	12	33
G0MRH	0	0	0	9

G6GUN and G4LHI are battling it out, but Bob is holding back the charge from Peter with some excellent monthly returns. Incidentally, had a mail from Peter informing me of the latest addition to his arsenal of awards earned within FISTS. G4LHI with his recently received "Rag Chewers Award" Number 90. This award is earned by working 100 members with QSO's lasting 30



Final Word

Phew, that's the end of a bumper edition this time. I am always glad when Keynote is ready to go to the printers. When I think back to when I started as editor and the monthly newssheet, I am really pleased that we now have a decent size publication that is well supported by our fellow members. Like always, I would love to get more articles so that we can be sure of producing the best CW Newsletter around so please put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and drop me your thoughts or any stories that our members would be interested in.

The 2 day Donnington Radio rally is fast approaching and Fists will have a table there again, so if you can make it please do and come over and say hello. Its the 24th/25th Oct this year and we have been informed that unlike last year there will be no major race events booked that weekend so we may even hear what you have to say!

Anyway have a good autumn and hope to speak to you all again in the Winter edition that should be out around Christmas time.

73 & 88 from Paul M0BMN

paul@fists.co.uk

FISTS EAST ASIA

Newsletter Issue#27



morsEAsia

October 2008

FEA Web Site	Primary: http://www.feacw.net/	Secondary: http://www.fists-ea.org/
FEA Calling Freq. (MHz)	7.026/7.028, 10.118/10.138, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058, 24.918, 28.058/28.158	
FEA CW Net Schedule	40m: 2300GMT on Saturdays	20m/17m: 0800GMT on Sundays

Contacts				
Role	Name	Callsign	FISTS#	E-Mail Address
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Membership Secretary	Jean	JL3SIK	9836	join-fea at fists-ea.org
Webmaster, QSL Manager, Newsletter Editor & E-Mail Distributor	Harry	JL3AMK	15002	webadmin at fists-ea.org
QSL Bureau: Akinori Harry SHIBATA, 4-34-10-203 Senriyama-Nishi, Suita City, OSAKA 565-0851 JAPAN Please send your SASE's or SAE's with IRC's or stamps to the bureau.				
E-Mail Distribution: You can receive the morsEAsia via e-mail. Please email webadmin with your FISTS#.				
Back Issues: Would you like to read back issues of FISTS Newsletters? You can read them at password-locked FEA web page; morsEAsia, KeyNote and FDU Newsletter.				
Username and Password: Please ask webadmin <u>via e-mail</u> with your FISTS# if you don't know or forget them.				

From Editor

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

Masumi's DX Vacations Come Again!

Masumi, JA3AVO #15029 was active from Orland as W3AVO on January, and he was also active from Cambodia as XU7AVO on April. And then...

Cmbodia, XU: He will QRV from Cambodia again from November 7th to 10th. Also his wife, Hiroko will be active on SSB on HF bands. I think the last YL operator from Cambodia was Sokun, XU8DX in early 1990's.

Members and XU callsigns are: JA3ARJ as XU7ARJ, JA1CJA as XU7CJA, JA3UJR as XU7UJR, JA3AVO as XU7AVO, and JH3PBL as XU7PBL. QSL to their home callsigns.

Kunio, XU7CJA has the first license for Satellite communications in XU, on 2m and 70cm. Other members will be on CW, SSB and digital modes from 160m to 6m.

By the way, Sokun moved to VK late 90's, and she got

married with Japanese guy there. Her husband got a VK license, but I don't know whether she got a license or not.

Virgin Islands, KP2: OK, here's another Masumi's DX vacation plan. He is also planning to go to KP2 from January 17th to 22nd in 2009. Three members, including him, will QRV from a rental shack named "Radio Reef." <<http://www.radioreef.com/>>

FEA Introduced by JA CQ Magazine

FISTS EAST ASIA was introduced by JA CQ ham radio magazine. It has a serial column for CW beginners entitled "Morse Communications from A to Z". At October issue, the editor introduced some CW clubs in Japan, including our club. Please see pictures on Nao's report.

Members These Days

Atsu, JE1TRV #7763 contributed to add Japanese translation of LCWO.net - Learn CW Online page by Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK. See <<http://lcwo.net/>>.

From Members

QSOs with the U.S. on high bands at Solar Cycle 22

Leo, JJ8KGZ #4843

One day, after our routine QSO with Isao, JQ2SFZ #15025, we exchanged some e-mail and talked about antenna for the next sunspot peak.

Isao is now getting his new house built and going to have a new tower and antenna by next January. "I know you are going to mount 2 element HB9CV for 40m, but what about for other high bands?" I asked. "What kind of antenna do you recommend?" he replied. I said "318C of Creative Design will suit you, I think." On another e-mail, he said "318C is too big. Maybe 318 will be a good idea. I don't know much about 15 and 10m so It will be enough for me to have antennas that cover 40, 30 and 20m."

I think it was his fair statement. Because he has been a HAM for about three years and never experienced the best HF condition. He rarely hears signals of not only DX stations but also domestic ones on 15 and 10m and the impression of those bands for him is like... "bands with no signals". I told him that when we have the sunspot peak, those wide bands will be full of signals from DX, so he should better to have some antennas for those bands.

After I sent him e-mail, I looked for my old radio logbook and found one of 1994. The picture above is one of its pages in October, 1994. Station's call signs and their signal report on 15m.

At that time, I did not know how to operate CW and enjoyed only SSB QSOs. Every morning I got up early, make a cup of coffee and went down to the basement in which my shack was installed. It was quite cold there and morning sun light came from the cellar windows. I switched on my rig and called CQ on the microphone.

I was called from the US one after another and had 10 to 15 QSOs until my wife called me for breakfast. Most of their signal report were 57 to 59 and on the next page of this logbook, I sent 44 to a QRPp station in CA.

I have to say the condition was amazing comparing with that of today. Most of the people who read this blog know that 1994 was not a year of the sunspot peak. It was in descendent to the bottom.

So you can imagine what is going on in the next peak of Sun Spot Numbers. 10m may be a great pond for the rare-DX fishing, and even on 6m, we will be able to enjoy dynamic DX contacts.

I restarted DX chasing from last weekend and going to keep it on to have DXCC honor roll with only CW this time.

Are there anybody who want to compete? Hi

73 de JJ8KGZ, Leo.

Weblog <http://jj8kgz.blogspot.com/>

TIME	CALL SIGN	REPORT	LOCATION
10:10:25	KB7QI/H	59	59 31 315
08:35	AGT B	59	57-5
08:55	K1L BT	53	55
09:00	W6 LFO	59	59
09:28	VE7 BWA	59	57
09:35	K6 P F	55	56
09:47	W6 EAW/2	59	59
09:55	KAT WBE	59	59
09:56	YC7 X SX	58	56
09:57	W1 EEA/6	55	59
09:58	AL7 JT	59	59
10:00:45	VE7 CUN	59	59
10:00	WAGBEE	59	59
07:05	KJS HE	57	55
07:10	K4 HZU	59	57
07:15	AA7 WT	59	59
07:20	K3 A HUF	55	55
07:25	N2 RM	59	59
07:30	AC6 FA	59	59
07:35	W2 P F	59	59
07:40	K04 UJM	59	58
07:45	W4 H L E	59	58
07:50	KR1 WH	59	59
07:55	W6 H K O	57	55
08:00	W6 G E A	57	59
	PETE		HERISTON, CA
	BILL		ARIZONA
	JACK		SAN DIEGO
	JOHN		SAN DIEGO
	CLUN		MONTREAL
	JEARY		QUEBEC
	TON		OREGON
	WAYNE		SALT LAKE
	SURAHAN		PARADE
	DIXON		OREGON
	MARTY		WILLIAMS
	NAK		TEXAS
	DAVE		VISALIA
	EARL		WYOMING
	BOB		ATLANTA
	HAL		MONTANA
	JOHN		TEXAS
	BOB		NEW JERSEY
	BOB		CALIF.
	LEE		DETROIT
	DAVE		ARIZONA
	JIM		ARIZONA
	JOHN		ARIZONA
	JOHN		ARIZONA



CQ Publishing Co., Ltd. has published "CQ Ham Radio" magazine since 1946. That is the only magazine for amateur radio now in Japan.

Above: FEA was introduced in two small articles on October issue of the magazine. One was in the corner of "Morse communication A to Z: An introduction of CW lovers club."

Left: The other was in the corner of "Tokyo Ham fair 2008: An introduction of club booth." Rie, JN1XLV #15024, Sugi, JK7UST #7178, and Hoz, JL1IRB #15030 were smiling nicely. Especially Rie smiled a KW smile!

Next Page: The company published a new book about Morse communication on September. That is the right book in the picture. Now Morse communication trilogy is available in Japan. Titles of these books are follows from left to right. "Morse Communication: Origin of communication = CW: Its appeal/operation/history." "Morse key and the world of telegraph: History, operation, maintenance, and collection of Morse key." "CW operation for radio amateurs: CW operation starting today." Reading them is fun. But it's more fun to use Morse code on the air.



From FEA Net Manager

Nao, JO3HPM #15008

FEA Net will Reach to 200 Times!

On October 19, the FEA net will celebrate its 200th anniversary. I hope to see a lot of CW lovers on that day.

FEA CW Net Results: No. 194 to 197

No.	Y/M/D	GMT	MHz	Controller	Participant
197-2	2008/9/28	0800-0855	14.0545	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John)
197-1	2008/9/27	2300-2345	7.027	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JP1BJB(Aki), JG0SXC(Man), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi)
196-2	2008/9/21	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JK7UST(Sugi)
196-1	2008/9/20	2310-2341	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JP1BJB(aki), JQ1BWT(Jun), JO3HPM(Nao), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JF3KNW(Nobu)
195-2	2008/9/14	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	BD7KBH(Xie), JE1RZR(Manabu), VK4TJ(John)
195-1	2008/9/13	2300-0000	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JG0SXC(Man)
194-2	2008/9/7	0800-0840	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	BD7KBH(Xie), JK7UST(Sugi)
194-1	2008/9/6	2300-2350	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JO3HPM(Nao), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JP1BJB(Aki)

See You Next Month!

Elecraft Tower!

Manabu, JE1RZR #15020

Hi, folks!

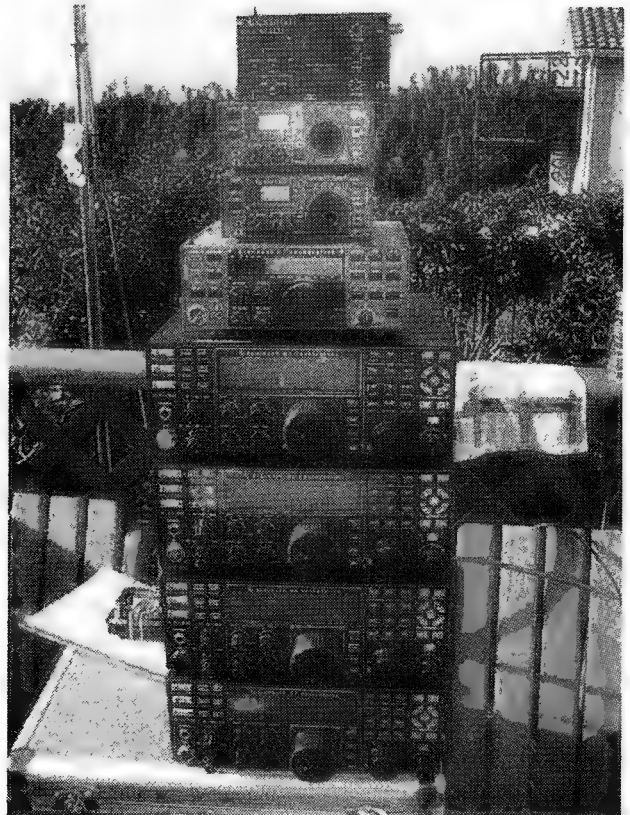
K3 is known with its good reputation for both RX and TX although not many guys enjoyed its performance yet. A very big chance came to here Miura city, located on the edge of Miura peninsula to see how K3 works well on 22nd November.

17 adults and 1 boy gathered at my home enjoying BBQ and curry. Some guys took a part with his XYLS. Well, the most event was serious test of K3 and K2 or other gears indeed. Atsu, JE1TRV #7763, Hoz, JL1IRB #15030, Yama, 7K1CPT #15028 brought their own K3. Also Sugi, JK7UST #7178 and Aki, JP1BJB #15039 provided K1 and KX1 respectively. So surely Miura became a place with highest density of Elecraft gear in Japan.

The result of assessment was very critical. K3 obviously seems to overcome K2 with its RX ability under severe condition while K2 shows pretty good performance when his signal enough to arm chair copy. Many pointed out K3's excellent work in full-QSK TX mode. On the other hand those who don't like DSP sound prefer K2's tone for rag-chew mode. It depends!

Which one do you like best; K1, KX1, K2 or K3?

(photo: courtesy by JE1TRV)



Heath Tower!

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

Here's a short tower of the Heathkit. Ha-ha!

Top to bottom: HM-9 wattmeter, HFT-9 antenna tuner, two HW-9 with WARC-band options, and HW-8.

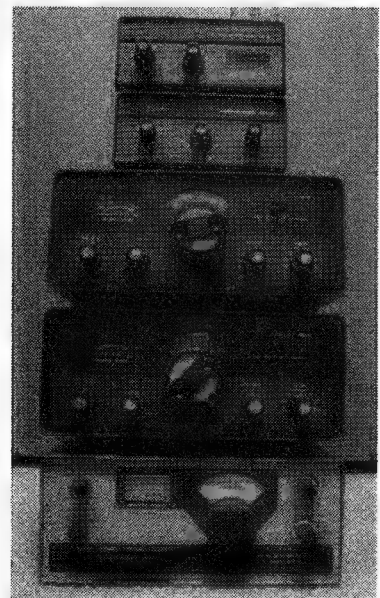
Welcome to the FEA!

Editor

#15057: Hide, JF1KGX - November 10

#15058: Nisi, JA0VYI - November 10

#15059: Hiro, JO1EPY - November 11



To send, or not to send: that is the question

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

One day in November, Manabu, JE1RZR #15020 had a QSO with a U.S. station. He was aware that the W-station was a North American FISTS member. He just wanted to have a fun time with some FISTS friends. So he began to send his FISTS number, BUT he had to end the QSO while sending his FISTS number. That W-station broke Manabu's transmission with "no no" and he never answered.

The day after, on November 29, Jun, JM1JOT/K6KF #9117 visited JA3, and Jean, JL3SIK #9836 and I met him. He gave me a few copies of sample of North American newsletters. There is a really interesting article titled "ATTENTION PAPER CHASERS."

Nancy, WZ8C #379 who is an editor of the U.S. Keynote wrote:

PLEASE take a few minutes and stop and chat. I get more letters like this one. Sure, wallpaper is fun to collect, but there is more to FISTS than gathering numbers.

She had received a letter like:

Although CW has been my favorite mode for more than 50 years, I will not be renewing my FISTS membership. The majority of FISTS members I have worked seem to be primarily interested in awards-chasing, an activity which holds little interest for me.

That's why I'm interested in this article and I'm sure that the W-station thought Manabu was an award chaser. Manabu really wants to have a chat with friends.

Avoiding unfortunate story like above, I suppose you should send a message that you belong to FISTS, and not send your FISTS number at first, like "CW IS VY FUNNY SO I AM A MBR OF FISTS CW CLUB." If the other person is also a member, he would send his number and you will have a happy QSO. If he is not a member and is interested in CW, he/she might be interested in FISTS.

At Sea

John, 9V1VV #8998

Posted to BBS on: 2008/11/16(Sun)

Good Day All,

I am back at sea - the ship departed Singapore yesterday and we are en route to an oil field off the coast of East India, so I will be QRT until I get back early January. Unfortunately there is no chance to operate /MM but I will try to listen in to the 20m Sunday skeds if I get time.

All the best and have fun

73 de John

One day, I received an email from John VK4TJ. "I am always hearing JA's chasing JCC numbers and maybe a few other kinds of prefectures (?) etc. Could you perhaps write us an explanation of what it is they are chasing?" The shortest answer is the Japanese version of DXCC.

Firstly, I have to explain the Japanese administrative districts system. Japan consists of 47 prefectures and a prefecture consists of cities, towns, and villages. Big cities often consist of Kus. Ku is a Japanese word. In addition, there are Guns. Gun is also a Japanese word. Gun is not an administrative district but a regional congregation of towns and villages. Total number of prefectures, cities, Kus, and Guns are 47, 784 (deleted 95), 186 (deleted 7), and 399 (deleted 221), respectively.

Now, what is JCC/JCG? These are awards issued by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL). I show the major awards below. All awards may be claimed for having contacted and received a QSL card from an amateur station located in each of the requested QTH either cities for JCC or guns for JCG.

Abbreviation	Name	Requirement
AJD	All Japan Districts	10 call areas (1 through 0) of Japan
WAJA	Worked All Japan prefectures Award	47 prefectures of Japan
JCC	Japan Century Cities	at least 100 different cities of Japan
JCG	Japan Century Guns	at least 100 different Guns of Japan
AJA	All Japan Award	1,000 different cities, Guns, and Kus using at least 2 bands and more

JARL numbered each prefecture, cities, Guns, and Kus uniquely. Applicants for a JARL award, have to prepare a QSO list sorted by these numbers. Cities and Guns numbers are often called as a JCC/JCG number.

The top of JCC ranking is JA2BL and he has 876 cities by now. The top of AJA is JH4MGU and he has 21170 points. 21170 points divided by total number of cities, Guns, and Kus including deleted ones is about 12.5 bands. That's incredible!

JCC/JCG has been very popular in Japan for a long time. JCC started in 1951 and JCG started in 1979. I can think some reasons why it's so popular. 1) Small power & antenna stations can enjoy it in the range of domestic QSO in small JA land. 2) V/UHF stations are also able to enjoy it. 3) Because there is a large number of cities and Guns, newcomer can feel fun to see rapid growth of worked JCC/JCG. 4) JCC/JCG expedition is fun. Their interest is to receive a pile-up. It's the same situation with a Dxpedition for DXCC. We can find them soon, because they often announce their QTH by JCC/JCG number, for example, CQ DE JO3HPM JCC 2730 K.

Especially, JCC/JCG chasing is popular on CW mode. In general, we Japanese are not good at speaking English. It is hard for us to enjoy chatting by using international Morse code. Most Japanese tend to prefer a short QSO that exchanges only fixed information like JCC/JCG numbers.

Is it possible to share the frequencies with JCC/JCG chasers? Yes, if you become the chaser too. According to the JARL web, a few non-JA stations seem to earn the JCC/JCG award every month. I found Jim, K7WA #13341 who got JCC-400 (non-JA No.118) and JCG-150 (non-JA No.4) in October 2008. Congratulations, Jim!

Finally, I show useful URLs.

JARL Awards Program: http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-2_Awards/Award_Main.htm

J-Cluster: <http://qrz.jp/index-eng.html>

K3UK FISTS Sked Page As A Place of International Activities

Nao, JO3HPM #15008

K3UK FISTS Sked Page <<http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/>> was opened on June 18, 2008. Because the page was inactive, it was closed on November 23 and unfortunately changed to Phone sked page, of all things. But thanks to kind Andy, the FISTS page was reinstated and we can use it again since November 26. I wondered why FISTS member hardly used the page until now. One reason might be a lack of enough publicizing.

The other reason might be that the page was thought of as just a place for award chasers. I have no objection to an award. Having something aim produce activity. But, please wait just a minute. How is to add a new idea to the page as a place of international activity?

I prefer a chat QSO rather than any number-exchange-only QSO. The reason why I joined FISTS is to make friends around the world. I'm interested in not their membership number but themselves. I think most JA FISTS have a same thought. A FISTS QSO is more than just a QSO for me. Because I belong to FISTS proudly!

We are in the bottom of a sunspot cycle. In addition, my equipment isn't big. It is hard to find DX FISTS on bands. So I hope the page help and give us a chance to enjoy a chat with friends.

Why don't we use the K3UK FISTS Sked Page actively from now on?

Letter from Italy

Gian, I2VRF #8325

I receive regularly morsEAsia, many thanks (domo arigato)

Today are 1658 days since than I am living on my bed. No problem, I am not sad, among the bad days we all have had, I am lucky because as my muscles become weaker, my memory becomes keener. I live serene in the flat near Milano, but I have always in my heart my beloved mountains unreachable for ever. You can see me alone, with my wife and with all my family on the mountains around my native Valley. Many years ago we grew roses in the garden of our cottage up there, now it is a waste land.
(in spite I was and am a mountaineer we liked also the sea!!).



FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – October 2008



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Web site -: **<<http://www.fistsdownunder.org>>**

SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808 MHz (160m) – 3.528 MHz (80m) – 7.028 MHz (40m) – 10.118 MHz (30m) -
14.058 MHz (20m) - 18.085 MHz (17m) – 21.058 MHz (15m) – 24.918 MHz (12m) – 28.058 MHz (10m)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.



NEW MEMBERS

We have a number of new members to welcome this month all from the state of Victoria.

VK3HJ-Luke Steele #9697 – Luke comes from Benloch - in the Macedon Ranges to the north of Melbourne. In early colonial days, the wealthy citizens of Melbourne used to move to the Macedon Ranges in the summer months, to avoid the extreme heat of the city. The illustration is of Mount Macedon.

VK3BZZ-Kevin Maher #9699, who lives in Bendigo about 90 minutes drive from Melbourne. The city of Bendigo is one of Victoria's largest and most progressive regional municipalities, with a thriving economy, diverse art scene, fabulous restaurants and cafés, a mild climate and an interesting history dating back

to the gold rush era. One unusual tourist attraction is the Bendigo Talking Tram.

VK3DCP-Mike Pain #9699 is from Bulleen a suburb of Melbourne. It is located approximately 12 kilometres from the Central business district.

When we receive personal profiles of these new members, they will be published in a later FISTS Down Under newsletter.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

When renewing their subscriptions the following member also included a generous donation. **VK6BT - Bob #9611**. Thanks on behalf of all members - these donations are greatly appreciated.

WIA News recently featured an item about the WIA Club Grant Scheme that closed for 2008 in late July. What was of particular interest is that one of the Grant Committee members, is our own **VK3TX-Deane #9664**. The article reported that Deane had previously held a number of other WIA offices. Having spent most of his working life as an academic at Monash University, Deane retired as an associate professor in 2005.

ZL2AIM-Ian #9683 writes: - We moved into our new house at the beginning of August. We had been staying at my daughter's house and now have moved down the valley to our own house. I have put up a temporary long wire, but we have a lot of noise which I suspect is from the surrounding electric fences as we are in dairy country. Over the next few weeks, I hope to put up a higher long wire and a G5RV. I can do nothing with the neighbouring farmer's fences, but maybe with a bit more height I will be able to simulate the nearly zero noise level that I had further up the valley with the same long wire. (No fences near that shack!)

ZL2AL-Lee-9662 (ARRL DXCC Field Card Checker for Australasia) writes: - I have processed 12 applications from ZLs to date resulting in some upgrades and new DXCCs which is quite brilliant. I am going through a bit of a quiet time at present, so now is the time to strike! Get your 100 or so cards together and send them to me. I offer a 24 hour turnaround time and guarantee a grin from ear to ear when you finally see the thing on your wall!!! Email me and I will send you all the paperwork and forms required. <leejen@paradise.net>

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

N1EA-David Ring posted this interesting information on the North American and UK FISTS' reflectors.

"Bryn N4VM-Bryn #6317 has generously made available hundreds of hours of W1AW code practice mp3 files that you can download and play on your mp3 player or computer. The files are located here: - <www.pcpractice.com/CW/>

They range in speed from 5 to 40 wpm. Text files showing the sent characters are also provided.

They are indexed by speed: 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 wpm as well by date of transmission. There are also two directories 18 and 18 wpm - both of which contain 18 wpm Morse code practice.

Below the directories of the various speeds are directories with dates. These directories (folders) are different files than the one's above and are from an earlier period where perhaps Bryn indexed the files by date instead of by speed. So if you run out of the ones indexed by speed, there are entire W1AW sessions recorded here.

We wish to thank Bryn for the gift to the Morse community on the Internet and here on the CW email list.

Current W1AW mp3 files and text files, showing what was sent are on the ARRL server here: <www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>

ARRL also maintains an archive of these files - and text translations of the Morse : - www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse/Archive/

AUSTRALIA'S FOUNDATION CLASS OF LICENCE – John Kirk, VK4TJ

...and they shall have four-letter suffixes beginning with "F".

You can hear the ribald comments now, can't you? Get your mind out of the gutter and listen up!

Australia's "Foundation Licence" came into being in late 2005. Since its inception, over 2,000 new hams have entered the hobby, reversing a downward spiral in numbers that began around 1990 that would have had no new [net] ham licences by about 2010. It is patterned after the UK's Foundation Licence, established in 2002, which has seen total ham numbers surpass the previous peak achieved about 1992.

Really, FDU's own Jim Linton VK3PC ought to be writing this, as it was a seminal paper by Jim and Roger Harrison VK2ZRH "Amateur Radio and the Challenge of Change", published in 2003 that got us off our collective backsides to make the Foundation Licence happen.

Salient features of the new licence:

- It can be achieved in just one weekend of study
- It offers limited privileges (80/40/15/10/2Metres plus 70 cms) limited power (10 watts), and limited modes (phone and hand-sent CW only)
- The curriculum stresses operating practices over radio theory
- A big part of the exam is about doing – cabling a typical station, making on-air contacts, troubleshooting a duff patch cable – you get the idea...

But are they real hams, or glorified CB'ers?

They are real hams. This has truly been laid to rest. Curiously, quite a number of them were issued "personals" instead of names at birth, but there is hardly a club in Australia that does not have one or more "F Troopers" on the executive now. They front up for public service events, climb the tower at the repeater site, run interesting meetings, and pursue technical excellence in all things radio. In short, all the things the old guard find difficult with a walking frame and an O₂ cylinder. As you might imagine, there was considerable angst from the old guard, who had to mine their own silicon for hand-made transistors "in the old days" around these "cereal box" licences, but that has all but disappeared.

Why haven't I worked any?

Because you are a CW operator, that is why. They tend not to embrace CW, particularly with the restrictions against keyers and keyboards. Dial up the phone segments of 80 or 40 metres during prime time and you will hear dozens of them running nets, engaging in technical discussions or gasbagging about the weather and the state of their hip joints. Hey, they sound just like us!

Do they ever become "real" hams?

Meaning...do they upgrade? In a word, yes. Whilst there is no legislated requirement to upgrade, the restrictive licence is intended to feel a bit confining after the initial euphoria wears off. Although I do not have the stats, the Wireless Institute of Australia is doing a land office business in "Standard" and "Advanced" exam kits, and Ron (VK2DQ) at the Radio Electronic School is shipping more upgrade study CDs than he ever did prior to the introduction of the Foundation Licence.

So, next time you hear a call sign that seems to be "rather a mouth full", give them a call – they'll be thrilled to know just how far their 10 watts can reach.

THE QSO THAT ALMOST WASN'T
Between
John Kirk, VK4TJ and Jan Oksiuta, VK4EBP

Many of you know first-hand of my obsession for FISTS wallpaper chasing, especially FDU wallpaper, because I have probably badgered you on at least one occasion for a contact. It becomes apparent when pursuing the FDU150 endorsement that the loss of even one contact can cause the whole thing to fall in a heap, given that we only have 140 or so members, some of whom will be between rigs, houses, inactive or unresponsive. So imagine my despondency when my initial contact with Jan, VK4EBP, brought back this response:

"Sorry OM, no working rigs or antennas at the moment".

My heart sank.

Jan continued "...But I'll build a rig...and a dipole, from scratch. Give me a week".

A week passes.

"Sorry OM, the output waveform on the rig I built looks like rubbish".

My heart sank anew.

"But if you can send me a crystal, I'll start again".

Some time passes, and the big day arrives – sked time, and.....nothing.

The QRP transmitter Jan has built just hasn't got sufficient mojo to push a signal 130 km uphill to Toowoomba.

My heart sank.

"No worries", Jan replies "I'll build an amplifier – know any good designs?"

A flurry of emails results, and a 15 watt PA based on switching FETS evolves from the lab. Sked day again.

Jan's signal is light, but easy S4 T9 copy in Toowoomba.

Uh-oh. It becomes rapidly apparent that Jan can't hear me! His neighbours, to a man, all run 5KW "inverter" air conditioning systems, the bane of any ham's existence, with S8 hash from DC to daylight.

"No worries", Jan exclaimed. "I'll build a loop antenna, and see if I can null it out!"

A week later, the loop is ready. It nulls out the noise, all right, but is down many dB on transmit as well, so no copy on my end.

"No worries", Jan replied. "I'll build a companion receiver, electronic keyer and antenna matching unit, configure it all to work on battery power, drive to somewhere with a clear shot at you, and operate portable".

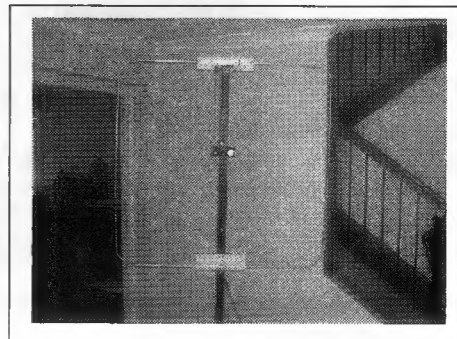
True to his word, this was all ready in short order, but before this plan could be put into place, I had to make an unscheduled trip to Brisbane. I made good on an earlier threat to camp on his doorstep with a rig, makeshift dipole and key loaded into the car.

With a massive 5 metre DX path, Jan and I were relieved to give each other 599 signals both ways, and completed the exchanges without difficulty. We should hope so!

FISTS awards, particularly FDU awards, are not for sissies. How many of you can say that you have worked that hard for a QSO? John, VK4TJ



Photos: - Above John VK4TJ/P and Below Jan, VK4EBP - Spy Rig and Purpose Built Magnetic Loop



FISTS DOWN UNDER NET

David Bell, VK3FGE

The start time for the current F.D.U. net will remain a 0900 U.T.C. during the coming daylight savings period, so it will be one hour later by local time. This is far too late for ZL - otherwise, the 80 metre net is doing well.

It is time to introduce a net that will overcome the time difference problem between Australia and New Zealand. That means something during the day. However, the biggest question is: Do members want such a net? If they do, then what day and time would be suitable?

I am therefore asking all interested parties to contact me. Please ring me on AUS(+61) 0 3 5756 2084 (omit first zero from ZL) and, as always, I will ring you back immediately, thus minimising your costs. I know those with email facilities will consider it a bother having to ring, but I ask for your patience and co-operation; after all, it will save time on the keyboard and provide an immediate exchange of thoughts.

I personally feel that for a group of radio hams to be without on-air regular contact is a shame. If you feel that way or if you simply wish to help provide another opportunity for ops to use their radios, then please ring.

73 & Happy Pounding, David VK3FGE

SAVE OUR SOS

An interesting article on the origins of the various distress signals and finally SOS can be found at: -

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/om/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7444184.stm

MORSE CODE TRAINING

To anyone wishing to learn the Morse Code or improve their speed, we recommend the course by Dr Gary Bold, ZL1AN FISTS # 9008. This course is FREE and maybe downloaded from the N.Z.A.R.T. Web Site. Go to: -

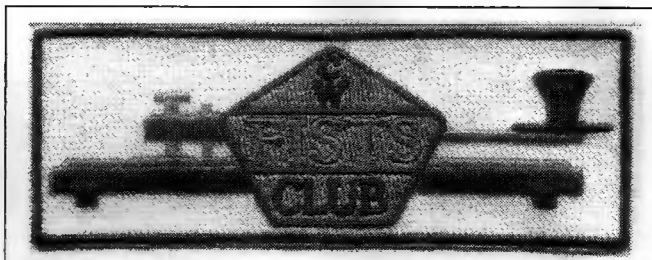
www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/exam/morse.html

FISTS DOWN UNDER ARTICLES WANTED

Once again I find that I am running short of articles for the newsletter, and would appreciate anything of interest to members. Any photographs sent by post will be returned as soon as they have been dealt with. If you are sending photographs by e-mail please send them as separate attachments to any article. This means I can play around with them and position them appropriately in the newsletter.

Photographs of Amateur Radio Stations, Old QSL Cards, Members and their families, Morse Keys and old and new equipment of interest are especially wanted. Also articles by members who were once professional W/T operators in the armed services, coast radio stations or merchant marine are desired, with stories and photographs (if possible)

Please send your articles to the Editor at the address in the newsletter header. Thanks Nigel, ZL2TX



FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

*Please note that YOUR RENEWAL DATE is
SOMEWHERE on your mailing label, either in FISTS#
year/month/day format or day/month/year format.*



*If your renewal date is incorrect, let WZ8C Nancy know so she
can fix it.*

**Send in your stories and photos for
The Keynote!**